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Child-Welfare Magazine



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of the

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE HEALTH VALUE OF PLAY	C. Houston Goudiss 522
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	Margaretta Willis Reeve 523
I AM HOME	Abbie L. Marlatt 524
PLAY FOR YOUNG AND OLD	James E. Rogers 525
MAKING THE VACATION SAFE	Harriet E. Beard 529
ORDERLINESS AND CHILDREN	Maude L. Smith 530
THE POWER OF THE PRESS	Anna Steese Richardson 531
THE CAPACITY OF THE CHILD FOR EDUCATION	Bird T. Baldwin 533
THE STORY OF A PLAYGROUND	Edith Mason Dawson 534
THE BOOK PAGE	Winnifred King Rugg 535
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	Mrs. C. H. Remington 536
CHILD WELFARE DAY (FOUNDERS' DAY)	Mrs. David O. Mears 537
PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS IN CHURCHES	Mrs. Frank Everitt 538
RECREATION AND SOCIAL STANDARDS	Mrs. B. F. Langworthy 539
SHADE (A POEM)	Theodosia Garrison 540
COUNTRY LIFE	Mrs. John B. Cleaver 541
MEMBERSHIP	Mrs. C. Arthur Varney 542
THE STUDENT LOAN FUND	Mrs. Miller B. Porter 543
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Dr. C. Ward Crampton 544
PROGRAM SERVICE	Mrs. Orville T. Bright 546
SCHOOL EDUCATION	Charl O. Williams 547
HOME EDUCATION	Ellen C. Lombard 548
EDITORIAL	Martha S. Mason 549
REPORTS OF STATE PRESIDENTS—Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, and Mississippi	550

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The Health Value of Play

By C. Houston Goudiss

DO YOU realize the value of play for your children? Or do you regard play as a necessary nuisance? If you regard it as a nuisance, you belong, educationally and parentally, to the Dark Ages. Progressive people are waking up to the significance of play, play everywhere and for all ages. There are schools which base all their studies on the idea of play; cities which have public playgrounds for men and women; churches which show their people how to play as well as pray; even prisons which provide recreation for their hapless inmates.

By the word "play" we may mean simply "recreation," or we may mean any activity which we stick to simply for the fun of it.

Some form of play is desirable for people of every age, but for the child it is an absolute necessity, like clothes and food. He seeks it naturally and spontaneously, because his instinct tells him that through it he can most quickly educate himself for life.

Psychologists, who have discovered for us in the last few years so many wonderful facts about the workings of the mind, tell us that the only experiences in life which make any really deep impression on us are those associated with pleasure or pain, and that those associated with pleasure stick longest in our memory. It is easier to form the habit of doing something pleasant than of doing something disagreeable. Therefore we can most easily teach our children to form good habits if we associate these good habits with play, or something pleasant.

One of the good habits we want them to form is the habit of regular exercise. The only way to make this habit strong enough to carry over into adult life, when the natural tendency is toward laziness, is to give children habits of physical exercise associated with pleasure—in other words, healthful games and sports. These forms of play have special benefits for the diffident child, who is always reluctant to "get into the game," and will, unless prodded, go through life only a "looker-on."

Another child who stands particularly in need of play is the youngster of just the opposite type, the young dynamo so bursting with energy that he can't be still a minute. Active, physical play is his safety valve. Equally in need of an outlet is the high-strung, excitable child, whose taut nerves relax in happy, vigorous play.

It should not be imagined, however, that physical play is the only kind from which children benefit. Every happy memory which they carry into later years increases their chances of becoming normal, well-balanced men and women. Those who have made a careful study of the unfortunates who crowd our jails and other penal institutions have discovered, in many cases, that the man or woman who has not chosen to live within the bounds of law and decency has had planted in his mind during childhood a burning sense of injustice. Because he did not have a chance for play and happy self-expression, which he regarded as his right, he has become embittered, feels that he has a grudge against the world, and has no interest in its good opinion.

Practically all of these reasons why healthy play is necessary for children also apply with equal force to the value of play for adults.

—The Forecast

The President's Message

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

THAT is what we like to think we wrote last month—something which will live much longer than all those who had a share in it and which will set in red letters a new date from which we may mark our progress.

In 1923, we received from the National Education Association an invitation to fill a place on the program of their Representative Assembly, presenting our idea of the parent-power lying dormant, and of what it might accomplish if aroused and properly directed. That the point of view of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was seen to be practical and worthy of consideration seems to have been demonstrated in the meeting of the same great educational body in 1924, a conference which, to the lay observer, reached the highest point of constructive power by means of a program full of humanity. The whole child, mental, moral and physical, in home, school, church, and community, was considered, and in section meetings and general assemblies the "chord of life" was struck again and again with sure hands, and the loftiest spiritual interpretation. All honor to the President, Olive M. Jones, who had this vision of completed childhood and was able to express it by a process of selection which showed a genius for getting the best out of people—which, after all, is the true meaning of education.

On Sunday night, June 29th, the great stadium of the Central High School presented a wonderful picture. Tier upon tier of faces rose out of a wall of blackness; on the velvet turf more faces massed under the arc lights—thousands of them. On the little platform, gay with flags and red, white and blue lights, the speakers gathered, with some special guests, and overhead eight great silvery horns carried the slightest tones of soft-voiced women to the outermost benches, while the strong voices of the men echoed back like trumpet calls from the brick walls of the High School background. The full Marine Band, half hidden by a screen of foliage, filled the night air with magic music and carried the accompaniment as ten thousand voices sang, "Onward, Christian Soldiers"; and, "Now the Day Is Over, Night Is Drawing Nigh." The moral and spiritual training of the child was studied by five experts, reaching a splendid climax in Dr. Starbuck's stirring address on "Fundamentals of Character Training."

Tuesday night, in the same stage setting, with an even greater audience, was presented what was generally conceded to be the most interesting program of that wonderful week—the Contribution to Education to be made by the Parent, the Teacher, the Principal, and the Superintendent. We wish our little magazine might stretch to proportions to hold them all, so fine, so varied, so fresh and inspiring were these two symposiums. The Congress was honored by an invitation to present the contribution of the parent, and our point of view met with a friendly reception. Tuesday afternoon the Congress had its first section meeting as an allied group of the National Education Association, by request of President Olive Jones, and over three hundred people were in attendance to hear a masterly address by Dr. Payson Smith, on "The Importance of Parent Co-operation in the Development of Educational Policies." Miss Jessie Louderback, of the Visiting Teachers, gave a most valuable study of the functions of the Visiting Teacher and her relation to the home, and Mrs. A. C. Watkins outlined the functions of the Parent-Teacher Association. The discussion was closed by a brief presentation by the president of the relation between the community and the High School Student.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Cleaver, National Chairman of Country Life, had a part in the program of the Rural Section, ably presenting the function of the Parent-Teacher Association in the country.

Monday night a most successful experiment was conducted—our first Parent-Teacher Dinner. We had thought that possibly twenty-five people or so might enjoy dining together to discuss matters of mutual interest, but fifty-three gathered in the headquarters of the American Association of University Women and overflowed upon the balcony—leaders in all sorts of important national movements, a really great tribute to the work we are striving to make efficient. No speakers had been invited, the intention being to make it a surprise party—which it was! About a dozen brief talks, from people whose complete knowledge of their subjects simply overflowed in speech, made a program full of inspiration and practical help, and it was with general regret that it was brought to a close in order to allow us all to attend the brilliant reception given to the officers of the National Education Association.

On Wednesday the Congress was represented by its president at the luncheon of the Association of Administrative Women in Education, where our place in the general scheme was defined; and other Board members attended the luncheons of the Deans of Women and the Rural Life Department of the National Education Association.

On Wednesday afternoon all the world of Washington held open house, and during three hours more than a thousand men and women, parents and teachers, visited the home of the Congress in the headquarters building of the National Education Association, where the President, three Vice-Presidents, the Corresponding Secretary, the Historian and several of the members of the National Board, ably assisted by the Executive Secretary, received the guests.

On Wednesday evening the President represented the Congress at the dinner of the State Superintendents and Commissioners, by invitation of our good friend Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford and outlined practical plans for co-operation between the state branches and the Departments of Public Instruction. At this dinner eight of the members of the Board were also present and responded to introductions.

On Thursday there were conference breakfasts, luncheons and dinners, and the Executive worked until midnight to compensate for the many profitable hours thus spent in gathering honey from all sorts of flowers. We left Washington with wider horizons and with convictions stronger than ever before as to the place and value of the work of our organization.

MARGARETTA WILLIS REEVE.

I AM HOME

Result and Creator am I; heirloom of those gone and heritage of those to come. Through me life immortal has spoken in messages that the world has loved, feared, and revered.

I tell the story of life's evolution, the story of growth, the story of civilization. I am the first and the last memory in life. I am the inspiration for the home eternal.

I am the incentive to marriage and the consolation of the lonely. I rescue the wayward from the sorrows of life; I console the despairing; I lessen the fears of the dying. I whisper hope to the bereaved.

I embody the wisdom of the past. I foster the wisdom of the future. I belong to all peoples, all races, all worlds. I am the expression of all that is best in their history, their loves, their arts, their religion.

I train the young; I modify their heredity; I march with their progress; I adjust to their needs; I influence their lives for good. To that end was I created—the mightiest force of God.

I Am Home.

Abbie L. Marlatt, National Chairman, Home Economics.

PLAY FOR YOUNG AND OLD

BY JAMES E. ROGERS

Playground and Recreation Association of America

IT is like bringing coals to Newcastle to tell the National Congress of Parents and Teachers of the need for play and playgrounds. Since your inception you have been foremost as an organization in the recognition of wholesome play as a factor in child-life and of the playground as a laboratory for education, health and ethical training. The splendid work of local Parent-Teacher Associations in the establishment of playground and recreation systems as a part of the municipal function of government is well known. The Parent-Teacher Associations have always stood for the trinity—HOME, SCHOOL and PLAYGROUND. The power of the Parent-Teacher Association as a nation- and community-building organization is unique from others of country-wide scope in that it touches the rock bottom of American living. Its strength lies in that it is composed of men and women, mothers and fathers of the future generation that is to be America, interested in the primary foundations of this nation, namely, the *home*, the *school*, the *playground* and the *neighborhood*. Make these four institutions strong and active and we will have America safe for democracy and democracy safe for America.

The Parent-Teacher Association and the Playground and Recreation Association of America have been active workers together. Nationally, state-wide and locally we have co-operated and supported each other in the movement for the wise provision for the wholesome play life of the youth of our land. The Playground and Recreation Association of America, through me, sends you greetings and appreciation of your co-operation.

PLAY AND THE CLUE

"Play for young and old" is my topic. Play to the child is the gaining of life;

*Address given at the National Convention of the Parent-Teacher Associations at St. Paul, May 7, 1924.

play to the adult is the renewal of life. By play we mean the wise and wholesome use of the free time of young and old. It is through play that the child prepares himself or herself for life. Play is nature's great educator and the modern educational methods were largely founded on Rousseau, Froebel, Pestalozzi and Stanley Hall—all of whom realized that play is a powerful instinct for good if properly directed, and for bad if perverted. Through progressive educational programs of games, sports and spare time activities of all kinds, such as handicrafts, music, story-telling and rhythmic dancing, the child gains strength, courage, co-ordination, health, character, and habits of ethical doing and thinking. As a child plays, so he becomes. As wholesome play makes for health, character and good citizenship, so the wrong kind of playing leads to mischief, delinquency, ill health and vice. Many of our problems arise from the improper use or the misuse of the playtime of children. The adage, "The boy without a playground is the man without a job," means that street play means shiftless play, which means shiftless habits, hence a shiftless character ending in a shiftless man.

SELF-EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Wholesome amusement alone will stifle the lust of vice," wisely said Jane Addams. Our young people, especially those who work, must have provided for them healthy, active sports and games. The automatic machine has made it impossible for the worker to find self-expression in his work; it must be found after five p. m. The community must provide social recreation. Schools, churches and recreation centers must be used. Young folks full of energy, brimming over with high spirits, must have an outlet in the right direction. The community that simply gives the boy the commercialized pool room, and the girl, the dance hall, for this natural craving and

need for social recreation, must suffer the results in crime, vice and disorder. The wrong-doing is by the community, for, unfortunately, the average town makes it difficult for young people to do right and easy to do wrong, whereas the reverse should be true. Two demands must be met: First, provision must be made for young men and women to meet in wholesome social gatherings and to have vigorous, active, healthful, outdoor and indoor activities of all kinds. Youth is full of life, and the young man and young woman between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six are interested in each other. Unfortunately, commercialized amusements occupy these precious spare hours, largely because the average community makes no other provision for them. As Elbert Hubbard says, "God made the country; man, the city; and the Devil, the small town." Or as another teacher remarked, "The trouble with the small town is that it merely furnishes the young folks with either 'a hot time in the old town tonight,' or a cold storage library." So just as children must play by the dictation of nature's wise commands, so youth demands a balanced ration for sane living, active sports and interests to keep them healthy and occupied during this age of sex interest.

THE ADULT AND THE ART OF LIVING

"We do not stop playing because we grow old; but we grow old because we stop playing," said Herbert Spencer. Thus, clean recreation is necessary to the art of living for the adult. Under modern conditions it is more and more necessary that adults participate in active games, sports and social recreation. It is part of the balanced ration of life for them also. Nature ordains it if we are to live happily, actively and well. The breakage and wreckage of life comes from the abuse and misuse of the spare time or play time. Recreation can either be WREC-reation or RE-creation.

The day of twenty-four hours can be roughly divided into three parts—eight hours of work, eight of sleep and eight of free time. Night has been turned into day by electric light, and the automatic ma-

chine has taken some of the fatigue from eight hours of work. The "modern efficiency expert" has speeded production, however, so we have strenuous tension. Self-expression can no longer be found in work as in the old crafts and guilds, but must be found outside of it in the community during free hours. The old shoemaker was laborer, artisan and artist; he designed, planned and made the complete boot and had the sense of satisfaction in creation and completion, in fulfillment. The average factory worker is defeated by the machine, so he seeks his satisfaction, not in his work, but in his community. Today labor must have a program for the wise use of its leisure. Man must have an opportunity for relaxation, and wholesome, active amusement if he is to be saved from strained nerves and restless excitability. The adult in the round of the twenty-four hours must have opportunity for healthful leisure-time pursuits, if he is to keep sane, well and happy.

PLAY NATURE'S LAW

The hungers of the three groups—that of the child for play, of the young people for amusement and social intercourse, and of the adult for recreational interests after work, are Nature's law. If properly provided for, we shall have normal development, for the law of life will have been fulfilled; but if violated, we shall have in our institutions the wreckage resulting from the abuse of this law. The relationship of the misuse and abuse of the play time of young and old to crime, vice, feeble-mindedness and nervous diseases, is definitely shown. Chauncey Depew well said that Americans need a hobby, not work. They have work but they need those things outside which will actively engage their free time. Commercialized amusements have made us a "bleacherite," sitting nation. We are suffering all the disorders of "spectatoritis." The old charades, bob-sled parties, spelling bees, front-parlor games and social gatherings have gone. Main Street, brightly lighted, calls. So America is dying in middle life between the neck and the waist line. It is the heart, the kid-

ney, the liver and the spinal column that are out of order. There is only one cure for diabetes and that is active, outdoor exercise. America must work and play less on its nerves. We must get into the game of keeping young and fit.

IS EFFICIENCY ALL?

In this country we have excelled in the arts of production. We are a nation of time clocks, efficiency experts, automatic machines, conveyors, adding machines. We have learned how to make a living, but we have lost the *art* of living. We have paid so much attention to the means of life that we have lost the end—the life more abundant. We excel in the art of home building, in physical equipment; in every home will be found a bath tub, radio, victrola, piano and vacuum cleaners. So in the art of home making and industrial building we are one hundred per cent efficient; but when it comes to the art of community building, the people of Europe seem to have the advantage. Cities there are built to live in. People have learned to enjoy good music, drama, festivals, outdoor pleasures and active exercises. The family unit plays together. Instead of commercialized amusements there are singing societies, sokols, turnvereins, public concerts, community singing, family picnics. Europeans seem to get more out of life because they put more into it. Bank holidays in England are community days when people enjoy the outdoors.

AMERICA NEEDS EDUCATION IN THE USE OF LEISURE

The greatest need in America today is education for the proper use of leisure. Free time is either a blessing or a curse. It is an opportunity for self-expression, education, cultural improvement. It is time won from labor for the development of a finer kind of living. But the wrong use of this opportunity may mean sanitation, worry, nervous disorders and social ills. Our children must have a normal play life if they are to grow to be normal men and women. Young people must be given places where they can meet together

and participate in wholesome pursuits. Older folks must continue their recreational interests if they are to keep young and fit. We must have avocational training as well as vocational training. We must learn to use our free time profitably as a recreational process, which will mean recuperation, relaxation, rest, so that we can do tomorrow's work better. It must mean joy and self-expression and release from strained nerves. We must create and cultivate hobbies. We all need mental recreation to keep sane and balanced in this restless, nervous, mechanical age. Young and old must play, for it is the law of life and well-being.

ENTERING THE CHILD'S DREAM WORLD

Parenthood has a mighty obligation. Parents must play with their children if they are to know them. Parents who enter into the play time and play life of their children win their respect and love. Through the child's play you enter into his dream world. He is possessed by his play interest; that is his real world, for, to the child, play is his serious business. Perhaps nothing separates parent from child so much as lack of the appreciation by the parent of this fact. Not only must we be sympathetic but we must be active partners with them. The trouble in America is that we grow up and cease to play. We need to go back to the simple pleasures and interests of childhood.

Every home should be a play-house and a playground. Every parent should be play leader and story-teller. There are books, textbooks, on play and games for the home that every parent should use. Wonderful work has been done by Parent-Teacher Associations and mothers' groups as volunteer play leaders of neighborhood playgrounds and in home development. If we are to wean our children away from the lure of the movie and the pleasure palaces, back to the fairy-tale, rather than the Wild West show, to the outdoors rather than the indoors with the radio, we must be the leaders back to the lost arts of home entertainment and home amusements, simple, joyous and wholesome.

BRINGING BACK IMAGINATION

We seem, all of us, young and old, to have lost the art of playing. Too early in life we are becoming sophisticated. We fail to see that real happiness lies in simple pleasures earned and done by ourselves. It is the doll made by the child that counts for the most. Recreational handcrafts, such as the making of toys, kites and dolls, are doing much to recall real joys. We are surfeited with mechanical toys. Children must buy their amusement with the dime or the quarter. The modern educational playground program of sand play, the dance, the game and the song teaches children to use their initiative, their imagination, their own bodies and senses.

THE GREAT OBJECTIVES

There are four great objectives to a community-wide playground and recreation system that includes young and old. First, there is physical efficiency and health; second, there is the mental, cultural and spiritual value attained; third, there is the development of community unity and morality, and fourthly, there is the conservation of leisure as a safeguard to the balance of living. These mean joy, fitness, morale, Americanization and citizenship. Wholesome play for children and clean recreation for all, mean better men and women and a better community, making

for a finer, happier and better America.

You of the Parent-Teacher Association can play a big role in this nation-building plan, for as parents you have the latchkey to the four institutions that reach the heart of the nation—the *home*, the *school*, the *neighborhood*, and the *playground*. The playground system means after-school and Saturday play; summer playgrounds when the schools are closed; community-wide athletic leagues in all seasonal sports, such as baseball, basketball, especially for the working boys and girls; social recreation and social gatherings for the older folks through the churches, fraternal societies and other groups; appropriate programs in the celebration of holidays; community music and drama; serving existing organizations and arranging for the full-time leisure life of the people of the community. "Rather playgrounds than courts or jails," says Judge Lindsay. "God gave the child the instinct to play; man must provide the playground," said Josiah Strong.

We must all learn to play if we are to keep well and happy. We must play together if we are to have understanding. If people will play together, they will work together. It is through play that we find our real sons and daughters, for we enter the world of their own creation. Young and old so playing will make a happy, joyous, sound and healthy people.



Community Service

MAKING THE VACATION SAFE

BY HARRIET E. BEARD

THE approach of summer days brings to children's eager minds many anticipations of vacation pleasures, of camping parties, picnics, motor trips, possibly of sojourns at mountains or lake. Parents who are able to leave the city during the summer devote time and money to preparations for the coming vacations, in the hope of making it a time of physical benefit and happiness for their children. Families who remain at home are equally anxious that the summer months may contribute to the health and welfare of their little ones. One important consideration necessary to ensure the success of a summer spent anywhere and under any condition is too often overlooked; it is that of *safety*. Each vacation a terrible toll of death and injury, not to mention the destruction of property, results from preventable accidents, filling the daily newspapers with accounts of automobile accidents, wrecks at railway crossings, fatal falls, fires, drowning tragedies. To many a family some sudden accident, resulting from a moment's disregard of safety principles, bring grief and sorrow and lifelong regret. Almost invariably these accidents could be prevented by forethought and the exercise of reasonable care. It is the writer's purpose to point out how this can be done.

The responsibility of fathers and mothers for their children's safety is twofold:

1. Making the conditions that surround them as safe as possible by the removal and correction of accident hazards.

2. Training the children in safety principles and habits of safety. The first condition necessary for children's safety is the provision of safe places and equipment for their play. Public playgrounds constitute a most important safeguard of child health as well as of child safety, but are usually not adequate to local needs, so should be supplemented in every possible way. Streets roped off at certain hours to provide space in congested districts; street showers, furnishing fun and refreshment on

hot days and operated without expense by members of the fire department of cities; simple play equipment in vacant lots; a sandpile in the back yard where the children of the neighborhood will be welcome; a work-bench in the basement—all these are practical safety measures quite within the power of any Parent-Teacher Association to accomplish with slight expenditure of money or of labor.

Parents who take their children to other towns or to the country should take pains to investigate whether there are conditions that may be a menace to health or safety, such as contaminated wells, an uncovered cistern, a trap door, poison ivy, dangerous beaches, third rail, etc. One cannot afford to take safety for granted when precious lives are at stake. At all seasons of the year bonfires, matches left within the reach of small fingers, grate fires unprotected, containers of scalding water left unguarded for "just a minute," and similar common fire hazards cost many innocent lives and untold suffering, but especially in the summer when children are not attending school, and consequently are left to their own devices for longer intervals, parents need to be on their guard to prevent accidents.

The traffic situation in these days is one that calls for serious consideration. Thorough familiarity with the traffic laws and with the locality of dangerous railway crossings or street car tracks in the place where one goes for a vacation is imperative both for drivers and pedestrians. The most important phase of education in the schools today is the training of children in the principles of safety. The success of this training depends in large measure upon the co-operation given by the parents in the home; their attitude and example is the determining factor in making the work of the school effective. Warnings are of little avail in making children careful. Constant training and encouragement are necessary in order to establish in them the habits

that will safeguard them from street accidents. They must be taught the proper way to cross the street, the necessity of looking both ways before stepping into the roadway, the danger of playing in the street and of taking a chance at railroad crossings.

An automobile hazard far more serious than the possibility of physical injury resulting from accidents is the unrestricted use of the family automobile by boys and girls who are allowed to go on unchaperoned rides. The responsibility of fathers and mothers in this respect cannot be emphasized too strongly. Social workers in city courts find that many cases of juvenile delinquency, bringing shame and humiliation to respectable homes, can be traced to this source.

While the types of accidents to be guarded against and the factors necessary to make the vacation safe depend somewhat upon local conditions, in general the following topics will be found sufficient to turn the family's attention to safety requirements, and therefore they are recommended to the careful consideration and discussion of Parent-Teacher Associations.

The value of teaching children to swim and means of providing a pool and instruction for this purpose.

Suitable signs to indicate dangerous places at beaches.

The danger of playing on docks and close to deep water; of changing seats in small boats.

Methods of rescuing drowning persons; "Schaefer" method of artificial respiration.

The selection of a suitable place for a camp; the care of camp fires.

Prevention of forest fires (this is a most important matter).

Celebrating the Fourth of July in safety.

The care of the picnic ground; ways of keeping it clean and free from broken glass, tin cans, etc.

What to do in case of a severe thunder storm.

The danger of live wires, third rail, of touching an electric light with wet hands or while in wet bathing suit.

The danger of leaving food in tin containers; of eating poisonous berries and mushrooms; food exposed to flies, carriers of typhoid and infantile paralysis germs.

Danger of carelessness in travel; standing on car platforms, putting arm or head out of a car window, standing on the running board of an automobile, getting on or off cars that are in motion, getting off backwards, standing too close to the edge of a station platform, etc.

First-aid treatment for cuts, dog bites, burns, sunstroke, poison ivy, sunburn; carrying an injured person.

Boy Scouts will be found able and willing to give valuable help in Parent-Teacher meetings that are planned for the consideration of "making the vacation safe."—*Courtesy of Michigan Bulletin.*

ORDERLINESS AND CHILDREN

BY MAUDE L. SMITH

WHY not a personal-efficiency game for the small children, instead of the almost constant nagging so ruinous to the child?

I have found it works with great success. I make ten points count as a nickel, and if at the end of the week the chart is 100 (which, I am loath to say, is very seldom) I add a slight bonus.

For instance: Prompt rising in the morning, ten points; teeth brushed, ten points; shoes shined, ten points; hands and nails cleaned, ten points; promptness at breakfast, ten points; promptness to school, ten points; care of rooms—i.e., articles of clothing hung up, ten points; promptness to supper, ten points; cheerfulness, twenty points.

Each child keeps his own record. The benefit is threefold: orderliness becomes a pleasure; he is earning his own spending money, which I insist shall cover all his little expenses; and it creates a friendly spirit of rivalry amongst the children.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS

Address given by Anna Steese Richardson, Director Good Citizenship, *Woman's Home Companion*, at the Banquet of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, St. Paul, May 5, 1924

YOUR President asked me to speak on the power of the press. The topic is terrifying in its comprehensiveness and I beg to limit my remarks to the power of a single section of the press, the so-called woman's magazine.

When this modern magazine for modern women has behind it a consistent policy and a strong editorial personality, it becomes a power for good in any community where it has readers. It makes special appeal to the woman who has come to see her job of housekeeping extending beyond her own four walls to the community.

This power is at your command, if you will use it as an organization in getting over your great work for education in the home and school.

There is a general feeling that editors run magazines for entertainment purposes only, to secure subscriptions at any cost of editorial integrity. I have worked with most of the successful editors of women's magazines, and I know that their standards are high, their desire to make America a safer place for you and your children is earnest and sincere. What they have done in the past proves this statement.

Without the editors of magazines for women, Mr. Hoover could never have put over his food conservation campaign during the war.

The "Better Babies" movement was born in the mind of a club woman in an Iowa town. *The Woman's Home Companion* organized it and gave it to America.

The nutrition clinics which you now have in your schools and Red Cross centers were inaugurated and financed by the same magazine.

Half a dozen magazines for the home endorse and work for the Christmas Seals to fight the white plague.

The Sheppard-Towner Act would never have been passed if the big magazines had not helped you women in your fight for it.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers may have a wonderful campaign or program under way, but unless it is given publicity, it cannot reach the individual Parent-Teacher Associations, who will turn it from an ideal into an activity for the good of the country. We have tested this statement in our own offices.

For two years, Mrs. Obendorfer, National Chairman of Music for the General Federation, waged a futile fight against the suggestive popular song. Last fall we published a four-inch editorial, urging parents to banish such songs from piano racks and phonographs. Within a week the frightened Association of Retail Music Dealers had taken action against this menace to American youth.

For a year Mrs. Edith McClure Patterson, Chairman of the Federation's subcommittee on Thrift had tried to interest individual club women in her literature. We gave her a page in *The Companion* and she had seven thousand requests for her literature.

This gives you an idea of what a big magazine can do for you and your organization. What message do you propose sending out to the magazine editors from this convention? Is it to be big and fine or petty and narrow?

One message I know two editors would like you to broadcast through their pages, the editor of *The Woman's Home Companion* and the editor of *Good Housekeeping*, and that is the demand that some sort of moral or religious training be given in our public schools.

Do you realize that in this country 27,000,000 boys and girls are receiving no systematic moral or religious training?

Don't take my word for it. Read the splendid articles by Mr. Sheppard in *Good Housekeeping* for April and March. Secure a reprint of the editorial, "The Disposition to Do Right," in the May Com-

panion. There you will find convincing statistics. Get as many copies as you like and give them to members of your own Parent-Teacher Association.

Twenty-seven million boys and girls who are not receiving religious training in America today!

What sort of men do you think will come from such schools? The Sinclairs, the Daughertys, the Falls, the Hamons of tomorrow.

And what sort of women will graduate from such schools?

Wives who would rather their husbands were *rich than right*, who demand wealth and luxury at any cost of integrity.

You have been shocked at corruption in high places. You must look far beyond and behind politics, to the schools in which our boys are being trained to be successful at any price.

When I went to Normal School, three thousand of us girls gathered every morning in the assembly room to hear an instructor read part of a chapter from the Bible. Then we sang a hymn. No one questioned this. Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants, we were American children, attending an American school, and the God of our fathers who founded this nation was among us.

Today the Jewish children receive reli-

gious training in their church classes after school hours. Catholic children receive religious instruction in parochial schools. Only the Gentile, the Protestant child receives no religious or moral training in school of any sort. Take these facts into consideration when you make up your program for the coming year.

Yours is one of the few organizations of women devoted to a single object, education in the home and school. Your power is tremendous. How will you use it?

To my desk comes every sort of propaganda. One woman writes that the future of America depends upon passing the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution. Without it the physical and mental standards of our race will be lowered. What matters it if we save the bodies of children and do not save their souls?

Another woman writes that if her organization can sell a million copies of the book it has just published, it can save America through prohibition.

Neither books nor resolutions nor laws can save America nor bring law enforcement to a Godless people. The desire to obey the law must come from within.

You have a slogan, "Home and School." Make it, I beg of you, "Home, School and God," for without God, both home and school must fail.

IN AUGUST

A FLOWER FESTIVAL in August may be made a delightful event. The story-tellers may be costumed as gardeners with overalls and wide hats, or bungalow aprons and bonnets. Or they may be dressed as different kinds of flowers, either in full costume or with a head covering representing the chosen flower and a blossom pinned on the regular dress. Flowers which may be effectively used are the sunflower, morning glory, daisy, rose, violet, lily and poppy. The stories should be entirely about flowers. They need not, however, be restricted to the flowers represented by the story-tellers, though it will be interesting to include them. "The Enchanted Garden," by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, should be told as a finale and dramatized by players who have had previous rehearsal.

A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Stories to Tell Children" and "How to Tell Stories to Children," by Sara Cone Bryant, contain stories for almost all these occasions. Other books of special interest for this festival are "Mother Tales" and "More Mother Tales," by Maud Lindsay; "Everyday Stories," by Carolyn S. Bailey; "Wild Animals I Have Known," by Ernest Thompson Seton; "The Jungle Book" and "Just So Stories," by Kipling; "A Little Book of Profitable Tales," by Eugene Field; "Stories of Great Adventures" and "Broad Stripes and Bright Stars," by Carolyn S. Bailey; and "America First," by L. E. Evans.

THE CAPACITY OF THE CHILD FOR EDUCATION

Address given by Bird T. Baldwin, Research Professor in Educational Psychology and Director Iowa Research Station, at Annual Convention of National Congress of Parents and Teachers, May 6

THE best modern school systems in America are discovering the child as the center of reference for the curriculum, methods of instruction, and school organization.

Today many of our best schools and colleges of education are including the technic of survey methods in their graduate courses to such a degree that school men are qualified to make their own surveys at such times and in such detail as opportunities permit or occasions demand. The earlier surveys were at best seldom more than cross-section views or snap-shot photographs of a changing process. The emphasis is shifting to more intensive studies of child development. The great foundations are subsidizing extensive experiments in child study. The experimental schools affiliated with our universities, colleges and teachers' colleges are becoming scientific laboratories for co-operative research in child development. The educational journals and monographs are devoting most of their pages to experimental investigations with tables and charts involving scientific observation of children.

Education has made rapid progress in scientific technic and application in the last few years. In a recent monograph for the United States Bureau of Education on Educational Research in America, the writer has listed eighty educational research bureaus in active operation in city schools and universities.

The health and nutrition problem is one of community of effort and the exchange of data on the part of health educational agencies working with the child. Health education should be a part of all agencies working with the child. Health education should be a part of all first-class public school systems. Physical measurements and examinations are an essential part of health education. This division is

an integral part of the school organization and school budget and not an isolated unit. Health ratings should be considered a potent factor in school promotions. In a very few years every good school system will include health ratings on the same basis that they now include mental examinations and educational achievement ratings in arithmetic or language. The six types of examinations given by six departments in the health division of the schools give a health profile which is of particular significance in understanding the child's capacity for education. The original record cards of all examinations are kept on file at the school and are constantly being used by the principal and the teachers.

The physical measurements taken in these schools are exceptionally valuable in interpreting all of the phases of child development.

Individual pupils are being checked with regard to special abilities of various kinds. Some of these are being worked out by the physical training department, some by the psychological division, some by the departments of music, industrial, fine, and applied arts, and some by the principals and teachers. Special abilities in education are being determined through an individual analysis of subject tests supplemented by teachers' judgments and scholastic marks.

At the present time, special ratings for social development are being given by the principals, teachers and special teachers. A few simple tests are being introduced. The ratings on co-operation, leadership and a series of social attitudes have been completed for a limited number of pupils whose promotion is doubtful. They will play a great part in the determination of the pupil's fitness for acceleration within a grade or promotion to the next grade.

The Iowa-Cleveland Scale provides for the successive recording of physiological

age in terms of physical condition, dental condition, nutritional condition, physical growth, physiological maturity, physical achievements and environmental influence. The mental age is recorded in individual tests, group scores and maturity ratings. The social age is recorded in tests and judgments on basic social traits and attitudes and in stages of social maturity. The educational age is recorded in standard tests, ratings on scales in various subjects, personality traits, and the teacher's final marks and estimates. Supplementary pro-

vision is made for recording special abilities.

It is recommended that the teacher assist the special examiner in transcribing the records whenever possible. This will enable her to become fully acquainted with the child's physical abilities and defects and will give her an opportunity to discuss with the examiner the methods of recording them. The responsibility for a final rating in each field should be given to the department in charge whenever possible.

THE STORY OF A PLAYGROUND

BY EDITH MASON DAWSON

THE North Kingstown Parent-Teacher Association was organized in March, 1923, with a membership of fourteen women. At the end of the first year its membership had increased to 102 men and women from six different villages. The rapid growth and the splendid program of work accomplished has been due to the co-operation and fine community spirit with which the association's activities have been met.

Immediately after its organization, the club started its most important activity—a playground which was in successful operation from July 5 to Labor Day. The entire funds for the work were raised by subscription. A large field in Wickford, the central village, was loaned, with the assurance that it would be at the club's disposal every summer, and apparatus was erected.

Twice a week children were brought in busses from four outlying villages. There was a registration of about 150 boys and girls, from kindergartners to college students, and an average daily attendance of forty-five. A daily program of events included baseball, volley ball, quoits, tennis, croquet, folk dancing, basketry, stories, health talks, paper flower making and a few hours at the beach with instruction in swimming, diving and rowing. Once a week there were all-day sails on the bay or hikes to places of interest, with instruction in fire building, woodcraft and nature study. A series of competitive baseball

games, quoits and tennis added much interest.

The season closed on Labor Day with an all-day athletic carnival—the first event of its kind ever held in the town. In the morning the various field events were run off and finals were played in tennis, quoits and volley ball. An orchestra played during the morning. At noon luncheon was served at cost price. In the afternoon came the water events—swims of various distances, according to the age of the child; skiff races, canoe tilting and tug-of-war. Nineteen medals and ribbons were awarded by the club and eleven of the medals and certificates were issued by the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

A director and an assistant were in charge during the regular summer playground season, but late into the fall, as long as the weather was good, the playground was kept open for tennis and other sports under the volunteer leadership of teachers and a clergyman. The playground was made possible by the hearty co-operation of a large number of people and through the courtesy of the local paper, *The Wickford Standard*, which gave a large amount of free publicity.

On March 25 at the town meeting it was voted that the sum of \$1,000 be appropriated for recreation and physical training this summer. The Town Council has appointed a Board of Recreation to administer the work.

THE BOOK PAGE

BY WINNIFRED KING RUGG

WITH the coming of August and the passing of the first excitement over a long holiday there arrive days when young people want to fall back upon a good book. This is really the time of all times to make friends with Dickens, Scott and Cooper, with Jane Austen and George Eliot, to say nothing of Kipling and Stevenson. The beauty of becoming acquainted with these writers in one's youth lies in the fact that they remain lifelong friends. They never go back on us; or, to put it more accurately, we never go back on them.

On the other hand, if we do not learn to like them before we are twenty we never care for them. So let your children gather rosebuds while they may.

However, if your young people have their garden of memory already stocked with these old perennials, or if they want only the new, you might suggest "The Last Secrets," by John Buchan (Houghton, Mifflin Co., \$2.50). It has a sub-title which explains its scope, "The Final Mysteries of Exploration." The "last secrets" are the hidden corners of the earth that have kept themselves secluded until the last few years. Mr. Buchan, who is an eminent historian and a delightful novelist, tells the story of explorations in Lhasa, Northern India, Mt. Everest, Mt. McKinley and the mountains of the Moon, the North Pole and the South Pole, and the holy cities of Islam. Some of these explorations are not completed, but that fact adds to rather than detracts from the interest. Like "A Book of Escapes and Hurried Journeys," Mr. Buchan wrote this book primarily for young people, but he could not help making it good reading for the entire family.

A nature-adventure story that boys will like because it has no sentimentality in it is "The Last Parrakeet" (Century), by George Inness Hartly, an account of the experiences of two boys in the Florida swamps.

Samuel Scoville, Jr., always goes well with boys. Sometimes he writes straight nature books, and sometimes a story. "The Inca Emerald" (Century) has a background of history and a foreground of outdoor life that make it interesting to boys and worth their time. Mr. Scoville writes so well for young folks because he has written for his own children.

Since most girls nowadays like boys' books, it is hardly necessary to specify books written with an entirely feminine slant, but we might mention any one of Augusta Huiell Seaman's mystery stories and an adventure story by Edith Ballinger Price called "The Fortune of the Indies" (Century Company).

Audubon societies are much interested in a play by Helen Harrington, "Outwitting the Weasels" (E. P. Dutton Co.), which teaches the lesson of bird preservation. In the same volume is a "clean-up day" play called "New-Fangled Notions." Both these little plays are simple and can easily be given for and by children at home or in school.

For mothers who are not essentially domestic there is special interest in "The Home Maker," by Dorothy Canfield (Harcourt, Bruce & Co.). In this profoundly child-loving book, Lester, through a crippling accident, becomes the home-maker, while Evangeline, always rebellious over household duties, goes out into the business world and earns a better living than Lester ever could. Through it all runs the theme that it makes no difference which parent is the home-maker, provided it is one who loves the companionship of children.

For solid summer reading the teacher who wants to know something about current theories in psychology as applicable to her work will find "The New Psychology and the Teacher," by H. Crichton Miller (Thomas Seltzer, \$1.60), sufficiently substantial. It is a pretty comprehensive book, yet its scope is limited to such aspects

of psychology as will help the teacher to help the child to make his adjustments to life. These adjustments are threefold: to reality, to society and authority and to sex. The writer does not swear entirely by either Freud or Jung, yet he does pay considerable attention to the subject of fears and repressions and to the symbolism of dreams. The main value of psychoanalysis for the teacher, he says, is not that it teaches him to analyze his pupils, but to analyze himself and get himself in hand so that he can teach without bias or

repression. The book is endorsed by the National Council of America and the British Social Hygiene Board.

To be reviewed later:

"Be Square," by William Byron Forbush (Scribner's).

"Character Training in Childhood," by Mary S. Haviland (Small, Maynard & Co.).

"The Mastery of Fear," by William S. Walsh (E. P. Dutton).

"The Child: His Nature and His Needs," edited by M. V. O'Shea. (The Children's Foundation.)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

BY MRS. C. H. REMINGTON, DIRECTOR

THIS department, as its name implies, is a large one, involving some of the most important and serious problems of the day. Its duty is to try to find their solution.

I will leave to the committee chairmen the task of telling you of the year's work and of future plans.

The questions of better films, country life, American citizenship, juvenile protection and the making and enforcement of laws, concern us individually and collectively, as they bear directly upon public welfare.

How can we get the interest of our people in these questions? It seems to me we must reach the homes of the land. I know no better way to do this than through the Parent-Teacher Association organized in each school, which can bring to fathers and mothers everywhere the truths about the conditions surrounding the present-day youth and the false standards set before them by those whose opinions should be safe to follow.

Ignorance has done and is doing much damage; inactivity, as much more. We all have opinions, but they are of little value if we do not register them in some concrete way.

Boys and girls are getting into institutions, through the courts, because home, school and church have not been able to give these children, in the early years of their lives, the right environment and example and ideals.

A nurse asked to take the care of a baby three days old hesitated and said, "I don't know about taking it. A baby has formed so many bad habits in three days."

We are finding out the importance of starting the education of the child when it is born, and even before it is born.

It seems to me that our job as a parent-teacher group is to interest *all* people in *all* children. We must tell them the facts. Do we know the facts? Do we know even the conditions under which many of our children are born?

My work as a public welfare official in my own state has revealed the fact that many of the mothers of our children are under seventeen years of age, and in many cases do not know the names of the fathers of their children. I have no doubt that this deplorable condition exists in other states. One of the eastern states is spending \$100 a minute to take care of the people that were not started right in childhood. Another state is spending nearly half of its income for the same purpose. Our states are trying their best to overcome by juvenile protection and by legislation the failures that the home and society have given them. Dr. Charles H. Johnson, president of the American Prison Association, has said: "Institutions do not reform. There is only one place to overcome our social evils, and that is in the home."

The irresponsibility of the young people of the day is due either to the failure of

the father or mother, or both, for I have found that nearly all of the cases that come to my notice, and there have been many, have the same story to tell—that the home has been broken up by disagreements between the two who have started out on the journey of life ill fitted for the job between them, parenthood. The keynote of our convention I would stress—"Training for Parenthood."

Let the parent, and the teacher, too, who are alive to the situation, do a little *more* than could reasonably be expected of them, that the things that are being said of the present generation may not be said of the next, with the "come-back" that "the mothers are to blame."

Some of our evils may be corrected by the vote. Are you fulfilling your civic obligations? Are you ready to answer the foreign-born and the inquirer as to why and how to cast a ballot?

Women as well as men are turned to today for opinions on questions of all sorts, and we must bear in mind that we ought to register our opinions. If we care for the public welfare we must not be on the fence on questions that concern the welfare of man, woman and child. Take a public stand. Let your town and city know *where* you stand. Many of our evils not only *can* be overcome by public opinion, but *will* be overcome. Let us face tests, for they speak louder than words. To do the best for the organization we must be willing to face the situation that confronts our nation and to roll up our sleeves and go to work.

Let us have the objective of better homes, better parents and better children, remembering that

"Who for truth no sword uplifteth,
He for error strikes a blow."

CHILD WELFARE DAY (FOUNDERS' DAY)

BY MRS. DAVID O. MEARS, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

CHILD Welfare Day (Founders' Day) commemorates the founding of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations on February 17, 1897, in Washington, D. C. The anniversary has been yearly observed since 1910 in accordance with a vote passed that year at the annual convention establishing Founders' Day, later called Child Welfare Day.

Year by year plans have been prepared by the national chairman, printed and distributed to all affiliated organizations as suggested program material for the celebration of our birthday, and responses from a questionnaire, together with letters and press clippings from the states, indicate a nation-wide, helpful and notable observance of our anniversary.

The National Congress has benefited financially by this celebration each year, but the committee would not stress unduly the *financial* gift. The gift of time, thought, sympathetic interest and endeavor, is necessary and warmly appre-

ciated, but this Congress of ours, like other great organizations, needs large funds to successfully meet its great opportunities and responsibilities. The silver anniversary offering in 1922 amounted to over four thousand dollars (\$4,000). A major part of these gifts was used for the work of the field secretary in unorganized states, helping to make possible the organization of *seven state branches*—Nebraska, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming. The gift for 1923 was even larger, while that for this anniversary (1924) was greater still; the sum total up to the time of the closing of the books of the national treasurer, April 14, has been *five thousand one hundred and eighty-three dollars and seventy-two cents* (\$5,183.72). This amount, though large and generous, may be much augmented, as in years past, by contributions *intended* as anniversary gifts, but delayed in reaching the treasurer in time to be accredited to the states at the annual convention.

An observance of Child Welfare Day (Founders' Day) with appropriate program and a birthday gift for national extension work is included among the "*Standards of Excellence*" for an ideal Mothers' Circle or Parent-Teacher Association.

A fitting annual celebration of the day would give to local associations a closer touch with the National Organization (a) by imparting information about the founding of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations; (b) by noting the high ideals of the founders and their associates; (c) by stating the aims, purposes, needs, claims and value of the National Organization; (d) by reviewing results already attained; (e) by discussing possibilities and plans for future development and service in national, state and local work, and (f) by presenting an opportunity for a special gift for National extension work.

The birthday anniversary of 1924 marks a great advance step in our National Organization (a) by giving increased knowledge of the workings of the organization; (b) by demonstrating its value to the welfare of the child throughout the world; (c) by showing the importance it holds in the educational, religious, philanthropic and social life of our country; (d) in the added personal loyal devotion and sympathetic co-operation of hundreds of thousands of our members, old and new.

On our twenty-seventh anniversary we have added to the alphabet containing twenty-six statements of the work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association a *wish* and *prayer*.

May the year 1924 be rich in fruitful service by our National Congress of Parents and Teachers for the highest welfare of the child in home, school, church and state.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS IN CHURCHES

BY MRS. FRANK EVERITT, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THE first requisite for success in any Parent-Teacher Association is a definite and worthy purpose. This purpose must be kept foremost in making plans for its work. It is the purpose of Parent-Teacher Associations in churches to help parents by awakening them to their primary responsibility in the guidance of their children's *spiritual* life, and to help both parents and teachers to have a real vision of the great need of a distinctively religious training of the child; that training to begin in the very early years in the *home*, to be supplemented by the church when the child is old enough to leave the home circle and come under the influence of the church.

As life unfolds day by day, and as months and years pass rapidly by, the results of early training are very apparent; the foundations upon which the child's personality are built are shown to be trustworthy or defective. The building of character is the most important business of life.

It matters little what works a man may leave in the world; his real success is measured by what he has wrought along the years, in his own being.

What are the foundations of a fine character? What things are necessary to insure a full and round development?

There is always a *physical* basis of character. There must be a strong, healthy body in order to insure strong mental faculties. The mind must be trained, not only by the acquisition of knowledge, but to use *well* the knowledge possessed. The child is entitled to the best education the country can give him. John H. Finley, formerly Commissioner of Education and president of the University of the State of New York, tells us in his book, "*The Debt Eternal*," that during the Great War, in its very blackest period, he was crossing the ocean on his way to Palestine. The battle of Kimmel Hill occurred when he was on shipboard. Marshal Haig, on the other side of the Channel, was saying to his men

that they were standing with their backs to the wall. *Conditions were desperate.* And yet it was at that very time that the head of the Education Department in England was introducing a parliamentary measure which came to be known as the "Children's Charter," and that he was rising in the House of Commons in its behalf, crying even above the sound of guns and of Marshal Haig's appeal, "*Education is the eternal debt which maturity owes to children and youth.*" This debt is the responsibility that must be met through the home, church, school and other institutions and agencies of our Christian civilization, each having its particular work to do, and all co-operating. For the *spiritual* development we look to the home and the church.

Parents and teachers realize how important and how difficult is the work of training and developing a soul. To know how to deal with the child so as to have him want to choose the right, and avoid the wrong, to help the child to build a strong character, is many times puzzling to parents, and they welcome an opportunity such as a Parent-Teacher Association offers to discuss these problems with parents and teachers who have had experience with similar problems.

More and more we feel the need of these associations in our churches, to bring the home and church into closer co-operation, to meet the spiritual needs of our children. *Why* should the *spiritual* life be neglected, when, after all, it is the most vital part of our whole being? The "Debt Eternal" to our children is not fully paid until we see

to it that they have the religious education and spiritual development which is their inalienable right.

Along with Parent-Teacher Associations in churches may be listed the Parents' Class in Sunday School, the Mothers' Reading Circles for the reading and discussion of helpful books on child-training.

Our hearty support and co-operation is needed to help in the promotion of all religious educational movements—the up-building of the Sunday School, the Daily Vacation Bible School, the Week Day Church School and parent-training courses in the community school of religious education.

The increase in numbers of Parent-Teacher Associations in churches this year has been most encouraging. Since our meeting one year ago at Louisville, I have received many letters of inquiry, seeking information and help in their organization. Many copies of the leaflet on "Parent-Teacher Associations in Churches" were sent out, as well as many lengthy letters giving detailed instruction, as well as inspiration. This year I have been in touch with twenty-four states where there are Parent-Teacher Associations in churches, most of these having a state chairman.

It would seem as though all the experiences of life must be looked upon as a means of building up the individual. All the work done, the good accomplished, God could bring to pass, in other ways; but he allows us, by working and planning, to build a character, strong, pure, clean, true, which we are to present to him. We are building for eternity.

RECREATION AND SOCIAL STANDARDS

BY MRS. B. F. LANGWORTHY, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

EACH year the subject of recreation among all groups of thinking people is becoming more important and more highly considered. The proper use of leisure time is a paramount question in magazines and papers and lectures. In many cities a definite municipal program is being pursued, in some places paid for by

taxpayers' funds, and in some places by private funds. One can look back over a period of ten years and see a vast improvement both in the quality and quantity of recreation on the part of adults and children in most communities. But the fuller the program offered, the more possibilities open up, and it would be foolish of us to

be content with what has already been accomplished. The development of mechanical devices for accomplishing work rapidly, both in the home and in the industries, has left a much larger amount of leisure time on the hands of both old and young, which means an increased need for attention to the use of this time on our part. To the Playground Association of America we owe many of the good results of which we are so proud, and in our own association their most valuable suggestions and help have enabled us to bring about better results with our own children. They have encouraged us as Parent-Teacher Associations to equip playgrounds in the best way, and made us see the need of supervising recreation by trained leaders. Many of our associations hire playground leaders the year round, because they have learned that an unsupervised playground is sometimes more detrimental to the welfare of children than none at all.

The chairman of this committee has responded to requests for material and for information from nearly every state in the Union, and has written hundreds of letters trying to put these inquirers on the right track of scientific information. Many states are doing good work along these lines, but it has been extremely difficult to get reports from them. One finds it, however, in state bulletins, and is encouraged to feel that a real awakening is occurring all over the country in regard to the need of proper recreation.

There have been placed in the Loan Paper Department several new papers on

dress, while our great pride is in the little pamphlet called the "Style Show," which was so kindly given to us by a Cincinnati high school, where it was written and performed.

A series of programs covering dress, manners, amusements and reading have been prepared by us and printed by the national office. These were ready for distribution at the convention. Our suggestion for the work of the coming year is that each association shall form a recreation group, whose function shall be to invent a recreation program for the families in each school district, and the whole work of the group is to have a good time. We hope that this may foster wholesome recreation to such an extent that amusements shall be purified and the word *recreation* be made really applicable to them.

If each state would send to the office or to the chairman of Recreation and Social Standards the plans that they have adopted or carried out, they would be making a vital contribution to the strength of this committee. Many associations ask for ideas that someone else has been able to put into execution, and if any association has found a new idea or made original plans, it would be a generous thing to pass it on to others not so fortunate.

We should, I think, remember that the growing need of America is the standardization of our social hours, as we standardize excellence in business, professions and athletics. When we have done this, we will have solved many of our so-called difficult problems.

SHADE

By Theodosia Garrison

*The kindest thing God ever made,
His hand of very healing laid
Upon a fevered world, is shade.*

*Green temples closed against the beat
Of noontide's burning glaze and heat,
Open to any pilgrim's feet.*

*This is God's hospitality.
And who so rests beneath a tree
Has cause to thank Him gratefully.*

COUNTRY LIFE

BY MRS. JOHN B. CLEAVER, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

MY appointment has been so recent and unexpected that I have only had time to wonder where to begin.

The first question that comes to my mind is, What is expected of this Committee on Country Life? And I hope that you will help me to answer it by asking for the particular kind of assistance that you may need.

My feeling is that you have a right to expect practical suggestions for the organization and development of rural associations, and that one of my duties is to secure information and helpful ideas and pass them on to you.

I also feel that as a national body we have a moral obligation to contribute our share to the bettering of all country life conditions, and that perhaps that would be a good starting point for us.

If we will be more concerned about what we can give than about what we will get, I am convinced that we will not need to worry about securing the interest of our rural districts.

There is perhaps no field to-day receiving more careful scientific research than this field of rural development, and the professional people who have studied the question from every angle will gladly co-operate with us.

I could not attempt to outline a plan that would cover all situations and conditions, but if it were possible for one word to serve as the key to the situation, that word would be *co-operation*.

Every influence that *can* assist should be called upon to do so.

I wish you might catch a vision of the fine people in the open country, who respond so enthusiastically when something worth-while and constructive is presented to them. If you could see, as I have so many times, an ancient one-room country school house—crowded to overflowing with people from its own and surrounding districts—from babies in arms to 80-year-old men and women, who have come to that

meeting under conditions that most of us would consider discouraging. When you find them willing to accept advice, suggestions and program help for developing their own community interests—and then at some later time hear their enthusiastic reports of what has been accomplished, and their expressions of gratitude, you would agree with me that there could be no finer return for any amount of effort we could put forth.

We need the strength of their enrollment in our ranks, but to win them we must adapt our plans and program to their needs. For them our program suggestions must be flexible and varied. There must be a genuine broad appeal that will apply alike to man or woman.

Country districts, with their isolations and limitations, have especial need to include in their group-gatherings every individual citizen, and in calling attention to this point, the broadest interpretation of our national objectives must be given.

The country viewpoint and attitude is decidedly different and must be met. You need a state leader who understands and has had this contact.

I ask each state president to give this side of her state development serious consideration.

If you feel, with me, the tremendous need and wonderful possibilities of helping your state to grow, not only in parent-teacher ideals, but in a closer union and understanding of all the people of all the state, for the benefit of all the children, let us get together and at least make a beginning.

My personal experience in rural organization has, of course, been limited to my own state, but four years ago our wildest dream could not visualize the results that exist today, credit for which must be given to that magic word—*co-operation*. Therefore, I am going to pin my faith for the future upon your willingness to do that very thing. Let me know the problem that confronts you in *your* state, and perhaps

together we can see the light. I have felt for some time that the national body might capitalize on the experiences of Delaware, that a state might select a limited area from the most promising section, and after studying out their needs, and possibilities, and in fullest co-operation with all agencies, concentrate every energy on a success-

ful demonstration of accomplishments that, under proper publicity, can serve as an inspiration and example for other sections of the state. There are so many aspects to country life development that such a plan as this might mean a more encouraging beginning than to attempt too widespread an effort.

MEMBERSHIP

BY MRS. C. ARTHUR VARNEY, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

A SEPARATE report of membership in each state branch, culled from the year's files and the information contained in a questionnaire sent to the state chairmen of membership in April, 1924, has been filed. Thirty-six states filled out and returned the questionnaire; ten states failed to respond. Only two state branches have failed to answer in any way the letters and cards sent out by your national chairman.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, the national membership campaign did not gain much impetus until January, 1924, when a mimeographed letter was sent to each state president or state membership chairman (where such chairman had been reported), calling attention to the pennant which was to be presented to the state branch which made the greatest per cent of increase in its membership by the close of the national fiscal year, April 15, 1924. Many states immediately renewed their efforts for increased membership, giving the plan wide publicity through their bulletins, newspapers, etc. Nearly every state bulletin which has come to your chairman since that date has carried some mention of the campaign, many of them featuring the plan and urging their members to secure the pennant for their state.

You should be kept in suspense no longer as to which state branch won the pennant presented by the National Organization to the state which made the greatest per cent of increase in membership between April 15, 1923, and April 15, 1924: *Minnesota*,

our hostess state. (Three rousing cheers for her!)

Minnesota had a paid-up membership in the National on April 15, 1923, of 3,418 members; on April 15, 1924, her paid membership in the national was 12,551, a gain of 9,133 members, or 267 per cent! Her nearest competitor is *West Virginia*, which had a paid-up membership in the National on April 15, 1923, of 575 members, and on April 15, 1924, 2,041 members, or a gain of 255 per cent.

In point of actual number of members gained during the year 1923-1924, *Illinois* stands first with a gain of 26,588 members, a gain of 98 per cent. Her nearest competitor is *Michigan*, with a gain of 12,617 members, or 45 per cent.

California still holds the banner for the largest membership, which she has held since the year she was organized, 1900. Membership, April 15, 1924, 79,516.

Illinois comes second with 54,007 members.

Were it not for lack of time your chairman would like to mention other states which have made material increase, but this is contained in the more detailed report submitted herewith. Later a list will be published, showing the standing of each state branch in point of membership.

Paid-up membership of National Organization April 15, 1923, 530,546.

Paid-up membership of National Organization April 15, 1924, 652,897.

Gain in membership year 1923-1924, 122,351, about 23 per cent gain.

SUGGESTIONS FOR 1925

1. National slogan: "A Million Members."

2. Every state president to report to the National Chairman of Membership the full name and address of her State Chairman of Membership, Extension or Organization and Efficiency *before August 1, 1924*.

*3. Every state to publish a handbook or pamphlet of Parent-Teacher Association information, which shall be placed in the hands of local presidents of associations, the principals of all schools, city and

county superintendents of schools in the state. (Use your State Educational Directors.)

4. Intensive membership campaign with prizes to arouse interest. (Pictures are most desirable prizes.)

5. Every state to place in the hands of the local presidents of associations national membership material, which may be had upon request from the national office.

6. Let us make 1925 the biggest membership year we have ever had for the children!

 THE STUDENT LOAN FUND

BY MRS. MILLER B. PORTER, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

IT is the hope of your Chairman that in each State Branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers soon will be established a Student Loan Fund for the benefit of the deserving boys and girls who should have a good education, but who have not the money necessary to secure it.

I should like to suggest that in establishing this committee, a plan that is simple in its construction and operation be considered. In a Western state they have such a plan, one which has been in operation for ten years, an outline of which I herein present.

Money is loaned without interest or without collateral on the student's personal note, the only security being the signer's personal honor, which, by the way, has proved to be a very excellent security. The applicant must be a resident of the state, but is not required to matriculate in a college in his own state, and may attend any school or college in the world. The average amount loaned to a student during one year is \$300.00, though in special cases more is loaned and in many instances less is needed. A great many apply for this fund whose parents can help them to some extent. Others, though working, need some supplemental financial assistance. The ap-

plicant must have three acceptable recommendations, one of which must come from his last principal or dean. The names of the students are not made public. Even the report made to the state board is made by note number. The fund is administered by a trustee elected by the state board. She is under commercial bond, and her accounts are audited annually by a certified public accountant. She also makes a financial and general report to the board each month. This particular fund was established with a donation of \$50.00 from the board, and has since been maintained by donations from the Parent-Teacher Association through the state, by gifts from individuals and other organizations, and through memorials. It is the custom of the board, several county councils, many local associations, as well as individuals, when a death occurs, to send a contribution to the loan fund instead of sending flowers. Immediately upon receipt of a donation, a neat and appropriately engraved card is sent to the family, apprising them of this action.

In addition to the definite conditions of the fund stated, there are many personal touches and activities relative to these students that the Associations can and should carry on.

* The National Congress has in preparation such a handbook which will be adapted to use in all states, and will be issued by September 1.—EDITOR.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BY DR. C. WARD CRAMPTON, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

DURING the past year, several things have been accomplished in accord with policies previously established, and plans have been formulated for continued advance.

THE SCHOOL PHYSICAL TRAINING SCORE CARD

It was reported last year that a score card had been prepared for rating the health-building work of the school, to assist the local associations in estimating the status of their physical training activities. This score card was first printed in the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, with suggestions as to its use.

Subsequently it was reprinted in pamphlet form and has been widely distributed. Several states, including Texas and Michigan, have sent a copy of the pamphlet to each of their local members. Others report that they are preparing to do so in the immediate future.

The State Tuberculosis Association of Missouri has requested permission to send a copy of this pamphlet and score card to the principal of every school in the state.

New York State has adapted this material exactly to fit its course of study in physical training and proposes to cover every school in the state in the Fall. Connecticut is preparing a similar campaign.

It is suggested that this project be made a topic at the state convention and plans made to put the matter under way.

With this excellent beginning, it is hoped that during the coming year every school in the United States will be covered.

STATE CHAIRMAN OF PHYSICAL TRAINING

Last year we had but one State Chairman of Physical Training, in Georgia. Now your Chairman is pleased to report that twenty-one states have appointed Chairmen of Physical Training, and all of them are alert and interested, while some have accomplished great things in their respective fields.

Valuable and timely assistance has been given to many state chairmen through con-

tacts made through the National Chairman, by their associates in other states.

During the coming year it is proposed to bring each state chairman into close touch with all others for mutual aid and inspiration. In addition the chairmen will be brought in contact with the national and state sources of information and aid for their work. These, fortunately, are many and generous. A small key will unlock a large door.

Many requests for information throughout the year have been coming to your Chairman and every effort has been made to satisfy these many and diverse needs.

One school superintendent in Idaho, where information had been sent, wrote a letter of appreciation:

"Thank you heartily for your welcome aid. I am astounded to know what a tremendous mass of valuable information exists on the subject of physical education. You may be sure that we are putting it to good use."

Plans are now under way to develop a national coherence and solidarity in the work in physical training in our Associations, and the prospect for a great national service is very bright.

FOR THE MOTHERS THEMSELVES

At the last meeting of the Board of Managers in Cleveland, your Chairman suggested that an effort be made to give to the mothers themselves aid for their own personal health, strength and vitality. In the past it has been recognized that the mother has large responsibilities in the home and that she plays many rôles of service. Your Chairman maintains that this service to her children, her husband, the school and the community can best be rendered by one who is herself strong and healthy.

Accordingly your Chairman is preparing a series of articles on the health of the mother herself, the first of which, "Mother's Footsteps and Her Feet," appears in a recent number of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

PHYSICAL TRAINING VERSUS MILITARY TRAINING

Your Chairman was informed by the National Office that many requests had been made for information concerning the relative merits of military training and physical training, and he was requested to prepare a paper on this subject. Such a paper was accordingly carefully prepared, and is now available for general circulation.

FEDERAL BILL ON PHYSICAL TRAINING

Last year the Fess-Capper Physical Training Bill, which has for its purpose the federal support of physical training in schools, was approved by our Associations. This has been revised and introduced under the new name, "The Capper Physical Training Bill." It differs from the previous bill in that it confines itself exclusively to physical exercise and lays aside for another more favorable opportunity the support of health activities in the schools, other than physical exercise, and which are customarily associated with it. It is the judgment of our friends at Washington that three-quarters of a loaf may be obtained, while a full loaf cannot be procured at this time. Your Chairman recommends the vigorous support of this measure.

MOTION-PICTURE FILMS

At the meeting of the Board of Managers in Cleveland, your Chairman called attention to the fact that the most effective method of reaching the great mass of people in the United States is through the moving pictures; not, however, through the so-called "educational" film, which unfortunately is likely to be shown but sparingly to groups of people met for instruction, but by the regular commercial motion-picture film, which is shown to the multitude in the moving-picture houses throughout the country.

Hitherto efforts to produce a health film for this wholesale distribution have failed because they were not sufficiently interesting to compete with Gloria Swanson and Mabel Normand. Nevertheless an effort was made by your Chairman to produce a series of scenarios on exercise which would

appeal to the motion-picture producers strongly enough to arouse their commercial interest. We are happy to report that this much-desired result has been obtained. The Pathé Company has accepted the scenarios and is now engaged in producing a series of seven films, in each of which is a single physical exercise for use in the home, which is shown and analyzed. These pictures are taken from a volume, recently published, called "Physical Exercise for Daily Use."

No expense has been spared to make these pictures attractive. Elaborate historical settings from Egyptian, Greek, Assyrian and medieval times are being used. Scenes from daily life have been included, the laboratories of the Post Graduate Hospital and the College of Physicians and Surgeons have been called into service.

It is expected that in September or October of this year the films will be ready for a run in the motion-picture houses throughout the country, in the regular Pathé Review. If this series of films is made a success and the Pathé Company is encouraged to continue its effort, the whole motion-picture world will be open to carry our message of health, strength and happiness to all the people of the United States.

The Pathé Company makes an earnest request, in which your Chairman joins, that you shall give us the benefit of your criticisms and constructive suggestions. Every suggestion sent to your Chairman will be heartily welcomed, carefully considered and gratefully acknowledged.

The films will be available everywhere. It would be advisable to serve notice on your local motion-picture managers early, for bookings are made three months ahead of display. If you wish the door of the motion-picture houses to remain open to us, we must urge the motion-picture managers in your locality to book these pictures, and then bring your people to see them.

In looking backward on the splendid progress made in this work in the past, your chairman views the future with a sense of great encouragement and confidence in the successful advancement of our cause.

PROGRAM SERVICE

BY MRS. ORVILLE T. BRIGHT, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THE help supplied by the Program Service Chairman during the past year has been extended to thirty-one of the organized states and has covered the following ground:

First.—Outlines for Parent-Teacher Associations and Mothers' Clubs in connection with rural schools.

Second.—Outlines for grade school Parent-Teacher Associations and Mothers' Clubs.

Third.—Outlines for High School Associations.

Fourth.—Round Table programs.

Fifth.—Brief typewritten chapters on many of the sub-topics suggested in the printed outlines.

Sixth.—Loaned copies of back numbers of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE containing articles on special topics requested.

Seventh.—Miscellaneous material, to help those who are called upon by their states or their local associations to speak or read papers on some phase of program work.

Eighth.—A multitude of personal letters made necessary by the inexperience of state or local program makers.

Ninth.—Recommendations and occasional loaning of books such as Dorothy Canfield Fisher's "Mothers and Children," Lee's or Curtis' book on "Education Through Play," Engleman's "Moral Education," Stearns' "Challenge of Youth," Jane Addams' "Spirit of Youth and the City Streets," and others from the Chairman's library for which there arises special demand.

Tenth.—Special articles from current periodicals, clipped and mounted, designed to be read and discussed in the Parent-Teacher or Mothers' Club meeting.

To illustrate this latter service: Perhaps some of you noticed a wonderful article entitled, "Getting the Boy to Read," which

appeared in the October "Good Housekeeping." Six numbers of the magazine enabled the Chairman to clip and mount in serviceable form three copies of the article; two of these have been in constant circulation. The third was sent to the CHILD WELFARE MAGAZINE, in which it will be published in the near future, placing it thus at the service of all subscribers, of whom there should be at least one in every association.

In passing may I comment on the very great value of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE in furnishing programs of absolute merit and practical worth? A subscription blank is always enclosed with the leaflets sent out by the Program Service Chairman.

Two most encouraging features of the year are: First, the increasing number of educators who are sending for our program outline in quantities and who are interested enough to later make known to the Chairman their commendation or criticism, or both; and, second, the general awakening on the part of both professional and laymen to the fact that Parent-Teacher programs must serve certain very special purposes over and above that of affording merely a casual social getting-together.

A new program outline for the year for Junior High Schools is ready for the printer.

The greatest problem facing us in our programs is how to overcome the timidity, modesty, or whatever it may be, that keeps our association members from contributing out of their own experience and observation to the topics outlined.

In Topics 6 and 7 of the Rural School Outline, for example, nothing furnished from any outside source could possibly have the value of honest, heart-to-heart exchange of experiences among the members. These are the topics:

6. Topic—Child Problems Common to Home and School.

- (a) Problems of temper.
- (b) Problems of obedience.
- (c) Problems of honesty.
- (d) Problems of indolence.
- (e) Problems of cheerfulness.
- (Five-minute talks by parents and teacher).

7. Topic—Problems Concerning Grow-ups in Home and School.

- (a) Self-control.
- (b) Courtesy.
- (c) Consistency.
- (d) The keeping of promises.
- (e) The use of threats.

- (f) Teaching by example.
(Teacher, parents and pupils, five minutes each.)

Every father, mother and teacher has had vital experiences along these lines. You would expect eager interchange of opinion, and yet multitudes of requests came to the chairman for something "ready-made," something the members might read aloud on these topics. To furnish all the help needed to encourage and sustain and yet not enough to weaken, will require the utmost thought and wisdom of a program chairman, whether national, state or local.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

BY CHARL O. WILLIAMS, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THOUGH the Committee on School Education has been functioning only one year, the foundation has been laid for making this work of great value and for carrying it forward with much success.

In October, 1923, there were appointed by the presidents of the State Parent-Teacher Associations, at the request of the National Chairman, twenty-four chairmen to direct the work of the Committee on School Education—in a few cases the president took charge of this work herself. Of these twenty-four chairmen, eighteen sent to the National Chairman definite reports of the work which had been accomplished in their state—only three reported that nothing had been done.

Much interest has been aroused in the field of School Education and these reports indicate an earnest effort on the part of the people in charge to bring to the attention of the rank and file of the members of this organization a realization of the educational weaknesses and needs of the public schools of our nation. Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Connecticut, and Delaware, especially, report an aroused interest in the subject of School Education though Delaware reports that they have

been working along this line for more than three years.

Except in a very few cases, the local associations throughout the states have held programs on school education. The Texas chairman reports that this subject has been one of the major interests of their state organization.

A leaflet setting forth suggestive programs for the work of this committee was prepared in November and approximately 8,000 copies have been distributed rather widely over the United States.

In spite of the worth-while work which has already been done by the Committee on School Education, this field has scarcely been touched. There is much left to be done in bringing before the people of our country the real problems to be met in the organization, administration, and supervision of our school systems. It should be the aim of this committee to give to the members of this organization the information which will create a desire for a thorough study of this subject, out of which should grow a demand over the entire country for more progressive and constructive school legislation on the part of the state and the nation that will solve the problem in present day education.

HOME EDUCATION

BY ELLEN C. LOMBARD, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THE year 1923-1924 has developed unexpected interest and rare opportunity in the field of home education. The interest created by this organization and the warmth with which state officers and committee chairmen have received the suggestions of the Bureau of Education, and have acted upon them, have given real impetus to our work in the Bureau.

As chairman of Home Education, I have tried to help build up some sort of machinery reaching through state associations into local organizations, in order that in every little community there might be one group at least, however small, at work on the problem of home reading. In connection with this, an effort has also been made to stimulate the organization of small reading circles with some results.

The chairman of the Home Department of the California Congress reports that their department stressed this year that the reading circle is a training ground for efficient membership in our local associations, as well as a place where every mother asks herself how nearly she approaches 100 per cent efficiency, and also urged co-operation between the reading circle and the public library.

The chairman of the Berkeley, Calif., Home Department visited the Bureau of Education this winter, and brought with her her plans for the work. We had a very interesting exchange of views. One factor that ought not to be overlooked in working together is that of making personal contacts with others working along parallel lines.

Fifteen states now have chairmen of Home Education. Some of these have been appointed so recently that a report of their activities has not been possible. I have not asked the chairmen to make a report this year. The idea is still young. It is not always possible to find a leader who can make a success of the work.

From the Rhode Island chairman of education it is reported that this year they have

compiled a pamphlet on summer reading for boys and girls, books for parents and teachers to read, together with suggested club programs to be used as guides.

Last year there was expressed a general feeling that we ought to issue some reading lists for boys and girls. Acting upon this demand we had prepared in the Bureau two courses which are available to you for the first time at this meeting. These courses are listed in our Home Education Series as Nos. 26 and 27—Sixty Selected Stories for Boys and Girls of the First Six Grades and Poetical Literature for Boys and Girls of the First Six Grades.

During the year we have issued two pamphlets in the Bureau for your use. Bulletin No. 5, Recent Progress of Parent-Teacher Associations, and Home Education Circular No. 3, How Home and School Work Together; a Parent-Teacher Number of School Life; Reading Course No. 25, "Pathways to Health," a course for parents; courses for boys and girls mentioned above; and the "New Order in Educational Co-operation," by our national president.

It was my privilege to take the message of home education to the parent-teacher workers in the state of Michigan last November. The ground had been well prepared by the state president. It was most encouraging to see the earnestness and sincerity of purpose with which the work was being carried on throughout the state.

For your use in the future, the Bureau of Education has prepared a circular on "Parent-Teacher Associations and Foreign-Born Women," and there are in preparation two reading courses, one to contain books of a popular nature to help our girls and women to realize that homemaking is an art, and that to be a good homemaker is to command the highest respect; the other course to contain books which will interpret to parents the kindergarten of today.

EDITORIAL

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

THE long-continued struggle for Congressional approval of a child labor constitutional amendment ended on June 2, when the Senate passed the amendment bill, following favorable action in the House on April 26.

The amendment does not prohibit child labor, but gives power to Congress to regulate the labor of persons under eighteen years of age.

It reads as follows:

"Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age. Section 2. The power of the several states is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of state laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the Congress."

This is not the first attempt to prevent the exploitation of little children in factories and beet fields. Two child labor bills have been passed. Both were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Many states were not protecting their children, and as a last resort an amendment to the constitution was proposed which should grant authority to Congress to deal with the problem of child labor.

The matter is so important that all child welfare workers will do well to study the amendment and all it implies, as the legislatures of the states must now act for or against its ratification. If thirty-six are in favor, ratification is established. There will be those who are in favor of states' rights and those who will argue for slavery for children. There will be others, long accustomed to fighting the battles of those who cannot fight for themselves, whose viewpoint will be from the side of humanity, justice and patriotism. It is well to be prepared with facts and judgment, for the battle will soon be on.

CAMP SEASON FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Each year a larger number of boys and girls go to camp. More than a million American boys and probably as many girls are in camp this summer. Most of them are from the cities and the larger towns where life is tense and civilization presses. The farmers' boys and girls are not there. Their dream is of the noise and bustle of the great city, with all the thrills of its unfamiliar sights and sounds.

The city-bred child rejoices in the open country, its sweetness and freshness; in the new companionships formed, and in the mastery of hitherto undeveloped powers which camp training brings.

Camp is more than a summer outing, more than a joyous good time in the open. It is in the best sense a training camp for the great American traits we need so much; self-reliance, resourcefulness, bravery, reverence and thoughtfulness. From a new angle it attacks the educational problem and helps the home, the school and the church in the tasks they take back in the fall.

Let your child go to camp.

DO YOU WORRY?

To be sure there are many things to discourage us—all the ignorant parents and neglected children and the people who are going to make money no matter at what cost to childhood. All the more reason we should not take the time to fret and worry. There are hard "jobs" ahead.

President Coolidge has no time to worry. Once, when a caller asked him if he ever did such a thing, the President said: "You are familiar, I suppose, with the constitution of the United States?" The caller agreed that he was. "Well," said the President, "do you find anything in it that says a President has to worry?"

Lester Ward says we have only been human about twenty thousand years, a short time in comparison with the millions

of years it took to become human, and with the millions of years we have to become more human. We really can't expect to develop the superman in our generation.

Why worry, provided we are doing the best we can in the best cause on earth?

Parent-Teacher work has a long-time program.
M. S. M.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By request, this issue is devoted chiefly to the reports of State Branches and National Committees, as presented at the Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at St. Paul, Minn. They are full of news and constructive suggestions and should form a valuable reference library. The September issue will continue them in addition to the regular contents. Some regular departments which have been omitted to give space for these reports will be resumed in September. The State reports appear in alphabetical order and the committees are those whose papers reached this office in time to be edited for this issue.—EDITOR.

ALABAMA

Our thoughts are so crowded with the many things that are needed to be done in order to extend the Parent-Teacher work in the state, that it is hard to cast them back and review the accomplishments of the past year and realize that some progress has been made.

The annual convention met in the beautiful little city of Huntsville, November 13-15, 1923. The theme of the convention was, "Building Together for Alabama's Childhood and Youth." Dr. Lang, of the State University, gave a wonderful address on this subject. He gave us five points to carry back with us: (1) Study the problems of youth, its needs and wants; (2) endorse the Sterling-Towner Bill, which is now before Congress; (3) adopt the test of intelligence standards, which gives to each child a fair and impartial test of his ability; (4) demand fully equipped schools; (5) women, realize you have power and use it. He also urged the reading of a book, "The Child and America's Future." A number of other good speakers were on the program.

At this convention new state officers were elected. The by-laws were amended, authorizing the division of the state into seven districts, each district having a manager, whose duty would be to secure county chairmen, send out literature, and help organize new associations, county councils, and district conventions. One district has already had a very successful convention, and some County Councils are being organized in different parts of the state. Since December, 5,000 pieces of National literature have been mailed out to the associations and district managers.

Five hundred letters were mailed out in regard to the High School Loan Fund, together with leaflets on Child Welfare Day in February, asking for gifts to each fund.

The Executive Board voted to give a \$50 scholarship as a prize to the State Better-Clothing Contest, which took place in Montgomery, April 24.

A banner has been offered by the Board of Managers to the district securing the greatest per cent of increase in affiliated associations.

A book has been printed containing the minutes of the State Convention, resolutions adopted, state by-laws and constitution, minutes of January meeting of the Board of Managers, names of seven district managers, with their counties and principal towns, and a list of local associations. One thousand copies of this book have been mailed out.

Letters have been written to our Congressmen, asking that they support the Education Bill now before Congress.

We have tried to emphasize the importance of publicity in creating an interest in the work. Also urge the members to read the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. We have a page each month in the *Alabama School Journal*.

MRS. E. L. HAYS, President.

CALIFORNIA

EXTENSION

Having a state as large as ours gives us many possibilities but also many problems in extension. Its two ranges of mountains running lengthwise separate the counties of the coast and eastern sides from the valleys; a mountain range and a desert across the center cut the state crosswise, while another desert in the south separates us from some of the extreme southeastern counties. As a result, we find that our problems of extension require study. Having 58 counties, divided into 15 districts, with two of these districts larger than the state of Kansas, our extension workers have large territory to cover.

We have formed a new district, the fifteenth, and have eight new federations. These federations are our great strength in holding groups of associations to enthusiastic and unified efforts. Our distances are so great and travel at certain times of the year so difficult that the associations would seldom reach the district meetings, if not constantly kept interested by means of county federations. In more settled counties and cities, the federations are the working units for all child welfare projects, and because of their unity are a great force.

We are emphasizing the need for well-balanced programs and study of our problems as parents.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Our reading circles and study classes have been emphasized through the Home Department and by the special committees on high school and pre-school age. Our universities and colleges have co-operated by assisting in the preparation of study programs on the health and psychology of pre-school and adolescent children. Several groups have had university extension courses on these subjects. Our state universities are considering the Mothers' Club, and one of our large universities, Stanford, has already joined, with 80 members. The instructors have been most valuable as lecturers at our associations, and our libraries have co-operated splendidly in program work and reading lists.

JUVENILE PROTECTION

While practically every part of our work is juvenile protection, there is a special field of activity agreed on by this department, which has co-operated with judges of our courts in seeking to re-establish youthful delinquents in their communities; by preventing humiliation and despair through curbing public curiosity and publicity concerning these unfortunate children; by bringing to justice those who were selling liquor to minors; by having police regulation of traffic provided near schools; by having conferences with those in authority as to preventing evils of dance and pool halls; by preventing sale of obscene literature, and by interviews with newspaper managers on the kind of publicity they give to high school failures or delinquencies. This department has also urged study of school attendance laws and those governing part-time education.

A twenty-four hour school has been established in one district for the care and instruction of children whose home environment is bad.

BETTER FILMS

Our better films chairman reports bulletin boards for listing films as to their desirability for children; conferences with managers of moving picture houses, and the establishment of Saturday matinees, in which the films are selected and the children participate in the programs.

RECREATION

Realizing the importance of proper recreation on health and character, many of our associations have devoted considerable time to securing playgrounds, tennis courts and equipment for outdoor games. There have been hired supervisors of playgrounds during school months—and also for summer months. Supervised beach play has been featured by some coast city Parent-Teacher Associations.

POSTERS

The interest in and work on posters has given the idea of our activities to high school students and teachers, while by visualizing our work we have been able to attract much attention at state and county fairs where the posters were exhibited. We feel that it is to be encouraged though not to the extent of being a burden to the art instructors.

SCHOLARSHIP

That worthy students may be kept in school as well as encouragement given to high standards of work, has been the thought of our scholarship department. It is a work growing in favor, and

this year more than \$15,000 has been used for this purpose. Many permanent funds have been established, and the future promises that many splendid services will be rendered in this work.

CHILD LABOR AND LEGISLATION

Our child labor chairman has called attention to the great percentage of children in California who are really victims of our wonderful seasonal crops; because of parents who travel from one section of the state to another to help harvest these crops the children have interrupted school work, if any. Public opinion and legislation alone can change these conditions. Letters and telegrams have been sent to our congressmen asking them for favorable consideration of the child labor amendment.

PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy works in such quiet ways that it is difficult to report, but when associations speak of auto loads of clothes gathered, cleaned and distributed to children, when hundreds of meals and thousands of bottles of milk are furnished to undernourished and poor, we can be sure of results. Shoe mending at half price, beautiful and serviceable layettes made, emergency chests full of sick room equipment, as hot water bottles and first-aid kits, canes and crutches, are some of the features of the work, also "Kiddie camps," where children are sent to vacation and health resorts, especially the children with a disposition toward tuberculosis. Many families have had baskets of food supplied and many mothers have been loaned money to take them over bad places, in our effort to keep the children in school.

PROJECTS

The state has had several projects: (1) The card index of each association, with facts as to organization and membership each year; we believe in this way not only to have a good clear record, but also to be able to feel the pulse of each association and to administer first aid if necessary. (2) As an aid in extension work each district was asked to make a survey of the number of schools and the number of Parent-Teacher Associations, both affiliated and unaffiliated; these two projects are incomplete, but are being worked out. (3) A listing of every publication that is issued as Parent-Teacher Association material, and an office file of them. (4) Emphasis on pre-school and high school, by appointment of special committees and by programs. Our convention program is built on these lines. (5) A new stress on the needs of the rural Parent-Teacher Association.

PERSONAL REPORT

Aside from everything accomplished, the one fact that most impressed the president in visiting the various sections of the state and in talking with educators, has been that communities are recognizing the leadership of the Parent-Teacher Association in welfare work, and depending on its judgment of neighborhood needs; also that our Parent-Teacher Associations are awakening in the rural districts the consciousness that old school facilities and methods are not adequate for the education of rural school children today. In other words, they are becoming the nucleus of a public opinion that demands the best that life can give for our children.

MRS. HUGH BRADFORD, President.

COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY

The extension work is done by a paid organizer furnished by the state through the Child Welfare Bureau. This same organizer conducted courses of study in various Teachers' Institutes last summer. The year's report shows 322 affiliated organizations.

Press work in Colorado is of unusual quality. The work is being put over with the idea of telling the educational story of our association to the public through the daily newspapers, education and commercial magazines.

The state work is financed by five cents per capita, and by funds raised during "State Week," which is a week devoted to financing state and national work. Ten per cent of the State Week funds are sent as a Founder's Day gift to the National. No further effort is made to get money. Even the Founder's Day offering is omitted, the National Birthday being celebrated with suitable programs.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

This is a very active department, doing educational work and rendering community service through its department chairmen. The "Better Films" Committee co-operates with the National Committee, supplies information to local and county organizations, selects films for use over the state at the request of the local chairmen. The American Citizenship Committee does active educational work, provides programs and interests educators in promoting this work. The Country Life chairman works through the Parent-Teacher Association in rural groups, doing field work for child welfare by promoting boys' and girls' clubs.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

There are several committees working under this department utilizing our big membership to direct the education of the parents of Colorado. The slogan of this department is: "An equal and adequate educational opportunity for every child in Colorado."

Under this department the Students' Loan Fund operates. This fund has been in operation for nine years, for the use of high school and college boys to assist them through schools. It is loaned with collateral and interest. A boy who is properly recommended signs a personal note that he will return money to the fund. The total amount loaned to date is \$8,452.83.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME SERVICE

The chairman in this department reached the membership largely through local programs, rendering one of the most valuable services to the parents and children.

The thrift work, so ably started last year, has lost none of its impetus.

It remained for the Children's Reading Chairman to receive the inspiration for serving Colorado's children in a new way this year. She saw the meager amount of reading material available for the use of children in home and schools in many of the rural communities. She felt that something must be done to relieve this situation immediately, pending change in library laws, etc. This child of her brain she called "Traveling Booklet Caravans." The booklets are made by

taking current magazines apart, mounting one story or article in each booklet made from paper into booklet form with a cover of art paper, wall-paper, linen or calico, and decorated with illustrations cut from the magazines. Twenty-four of these booklets, assorted to meet the needs of the various ages and types of mind of an average group of children, are sent, by Parcels Post, to the schools. The county superintendents co-operate in the plan for distributing these caravans. The personal service of making these booklets is designated to high school groups of boys and girls under the direction of Parent-Teacher workers, or to the parents and teachers themselves. This is our little-big idea of 1924.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The work of this department has been systematized for some years in Colorado under the director. Each local association is reached early in the fall, the work being done in co-operation with the Child Welfare Board. Follow-up work is done and a very satisfactory health program put over.

The state would like to give an account of our two Mothers' Study Circles, 322 local associations and 17 organized County Councils. They are all doing splendid work. The County Councils have a fine state and national spirit.

As a state we wish to thank the National officers and committee chairmen for their help and inspiration. We wish to extend greetings to our sister state organizations, for we rejoice in the privilege of joining hands with them in our effort to make our nation fine and joyous for the nation's children.

Mrs. HARRY ZIMMERHACKEL, President.

CONNECTICUT

It is impossible to give a complete report of the work done in Connecticut during the past year owing to the fact that the Annual Convention of the Connecticut Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association has not yet been held. Our convention is called for June, under the hospitable roof of the Connecticut Agricultural College. The relations between the college and our organization are most cordial, and we are anticipating an unusually profitable session.

The regular lines of Parent-Teacher Association work have been carried on throughout the year, but particular stress has been placed upon "Educating Our Membership," as recommended by our National President in a fall issue of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

All chairmen of standing committees have been faithful and earnest in their work, but only a few can here be mentioned.

Our publicity chairman is very new at her task, but is receiving commendation from the National.

Our Speakers' Exchange has requested each club to report the speakers who have proved of greatest value, their subjects and outline of lectures, and from this material it hopes to build a bureau more adequate to the demands.

Splendid suggestions for work among the foreign-born have been sent out by our Americanization chairman, who is the director of this department of the State Board of Education.

Conditions and problems have been presented for our serious consideration by our Juvenile Court chairman, herself a probation officer.

Our Motion Picture chairman is very much alive to the movie situation. She has kept us in close touch with National's recommendations, and has been in correspondence with the picture authorities, expressing skillfully, approval or disapproval, not only of actual productions, but of themes and policies.

Our Thrift chairman has her subject well in hand, and is planning to demonstrate a school savings bank at our coming convention.

We have sent letters and resolutions collectively and as individual clubs, favoring the legislation endorsed by National, and were represented at the Law Enforcement Conference recently held in Washington.

The 104 new subscriptions to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE testify to the growing appreciation of our official organ.

The chairman of our Home Economics Committee is a nutrition specialist and an Extension worker of Connecticut Agricultural College. She has every detail connected with the hot school lunch worked out to a nicety, and responds readily to every call, feeling confident that if the lunch is established under the auspices of a Parent-Teacher Association its success is assured.

We have an expert librarian as chairman of literature for children. She is the "Visitor and Inspector of Libraries" under the State Public Library Commission, whose official duties include organizing and cataloguing town and village libraries, introducing traveling libraries and conducting a class in library training at the Yale Summer Normal School. She possesses, in addi-

tion to the technique of her vocation, a great love for children and a true understanding of their needs.

The article, "Bodies and Minds—Plus Souls," which appeared in the April CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, was written by our Spiritual Helps Chairman, and describes in detail her method of conducting this important line of work. This article has been considered so very practical and inspiring that it is to be added to the National loan papers. Our locals are notifying us that the meetings devoted to programs as outlined in this article have been among the most interesting and helpful, and have brought out the largest attendance. Our chairman is in great demand, and during the Lenten season alone, delivered twenty-four addresses upon "Religion in the Home." She has also prepared a program for religious study called "Seeing God in Everything," which we have recommended to all our clubs.

Our *Bulletin*, issued immediately after each of our five Executive Board meetings, has outgrown its modest proportions. Its increasing value and importance entitle it to a wider and freer circulation than it now has.

The most delightful event of the year was a visit of our National President in February. The close intimate session meant much to the official family of the State Branch, while her illuminating address before the open meeting gave to many a comprehensive vision of the vitality and power of our great National body.

Although the year has not been one of extension, we have added 13 new clubs to our enroll-



*The U. S. Public Health Service, in the book, GOOD TEETH, (Keep Well Series No. 13) page 14, says "No medicine has ever been suggested which will cure pyorrhea, and the sooner this fact is recognized by both dentist and patient, the better for all concerned."

Colgate's— Safe for a Lifetime

Safety is the important thing to consider in a dental cream for children.

Colgate's Ribbon Dental Cream is a safe, common sense dentifrice for which no "cure-all" claims* are made. It contains no harsh grit to scratch the thin tooth enamel—no strong drugs to disturb the normal condition of the mouth.

Teeth brushed with Colgate's retain all their clean, natural beauty. And the taste is so pleasant that children use it regularly and willingly.

Colgate's is on sale today at your favorite store—25c for the large tube.

Colgate & Co.
Established 1806

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING IMPLIES HONESTY IN MANUFACTURE

ment, and our membership of 7,624 shows a gain of 15 per cent. It has been a period of setting our house in order. We have strengthened our foundations, feeling that a clear, definite knowledge of "aims and objects" was more essential than the enlargement of the superstructure of material results.

Mrs. H. WOOSTER WEBBER, President.

DELAWARE

The number of people enrolled in Parent-Teacher work in Delaware has increased 50 per cent in the last year. These are enrolled in 327 associations, of which 242 are white and 85 colored. They represent 88 per cent of the rural schools of the state, a percentage which it has been possible to achieve through a policy which has been broad enough to embrace all types of people in the community. Organizers everywhere have suggested to the local people the idea of opening the school one night a month as a meeting place for the adults of the community to come together and discuss subjects which relate to the community's welfare, prominent among which should be the school and the interests of the children. These associations have been organized largely through the personal work of the members of the State Executive Committee. By means of the money placed at the disposal of the State Parent-Teacher Association by the Service Citizens of Delaware, it has been possible to pay the traveling expenses of workers who could give their time. Accordingly, last June and July, two members of the Executive Committee visited the homes of 170 school trustees. Although many were found who were opposed to the idea when it was first presented, the friendly visit invariably resulted in either a promise not to oppose such a movement if started by the teacher, or a pledge to take the matter up with the teacher as soon as she came to the school in the fall, and with her to attempt to start an association in the district. Following the visits, complete records of all interviews were filed in our executive office. In September, letters outlining a campaign to be carried on during the month of October were mailed to both trustees and teachers. The school districts without associations were divided among the State Executive Committee, and each member in turn became responsible for scheduling and conducting meetings in definite districts. The success of the plan exceeded our greatest expectations.

OUR PUBLICITY PROGRAM

After the campaign, Delaware has spent the greater part of her time this year in developing a state-wide publicity program. Every association in the state has been urged to appoint a publicity chairman, whose duty it is to forward to the office each month an account of the proceedings in her district. These are rewritten and sent out daily to the local newspapers nearest to the district making the report. As a part of the plan, banners have been offered to all associations that have forwarded six reports, provided they have shown that the program material furnished free of charge by the State Program Committee, has been used at each meeting, and provided, also, that they have reported a membership which represents three-fourths of the families living in the district.

PROGRAM SERVICE

The Delaware Association has held consistently to the idea that its opportunity for greatest service is to bring about a better understanding of the changed objective of the modern school, on the part of the parent and citizen. Accordingly, it has named a State Program Committee to outline a series of programs to assist local leaders in accomplishing this purpose. This committee has, during the last year, prepared a series of six leaflets on the subject of "The School as a Community Center." Each leaflet has presented the story of schools in other states that are serving as genuine community centers for young and old, in the district. No school has been included in the series until it had first been visited by a member of the Program Committee. These leaflets have, in addition, recommended always that one half hour at each meeting be reserved for the teacher, in order that she may demonstrate to the parents methods that she is using at the present time in the school, which differ so radically from those by which the parents of the children were taught in their school days. It includes, also, the recommendation that as much work done by the children during the month as it is possible to have on hand be displayed at the time of the Parent-Teacher meeting, making it an occasion when the adults of the neighborhood may look in on the school and get a clear idea of its object themselves, and at the same time lend to the child the encouragement of their interest. The leaflets are mailed to the president and to the secretary of the association only, to assist them in planning their meetings. Pictorial leaflets, illustrating the school described, are supplied in quantity, however, so that one may be given to all who attend the meetings.

DEMONSTRATION MEETINGS

In order to assist leaders in the proper use of the material so furnished, demonstration meetings, introduced for the first time last year, have been repeated this year. Four county demonstration meetings were held in February, at which time the program recommended for the month was given in the best fashion possible. It was the practice to invite the officers of every association in the county to this meeting. The attendance in every instance was splendid. The earnestness of the men and women who attended the meetings was conclusive proof that the plan was genuinely appreciated.

BOOKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHILDREN

Although the Parent-Teacher Association of Delaware insists that money-making, for any purpose whatever, must be secondary to the work of creating a better understanding of facts which affect the welfare of the child, it pledged itself, three years ago, to work for the development of libraries in the rural schools of the state. "Thirty Books a Year for Ten Years" was urged as a slogan in every district. As a result, many associations have started to work to make available for country children books of the type needed for reference if modern teaching methods are to be followed, and books of the type which are likely to make book lovers of the children.

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THE STATE CONVENTIONS

The extent of the appeal of the Parent-Teacher movement in Delaware was strikingly demonstrated on April 12 at the State Convention, which was held in the Dover Opera House. Fifteen hundred people, it is conservatively estimated, attended this meeting. These people came not from towns nearby, nor from the railroad centers of the state. They came from the most remote districts; from the northern, the eastern, the western parts of the state; and from the districts most bitterly opposed, five years ago, to modern school legislation. The convention at the afternoon session adopted resolutions endorsing an equal educational opportunity for all children, with a declaration that "the Delaware Parent-Teacher Association is looking forward to the day when there will be a school building capable of becoming a real community center, within the reach of every child and every adult citizen." A notable feature of the convention was the election of four men to the State Executive Committee, which includes in all nine members.

Equal enthusiasm was shown at the colored convention, which was held at the Booker T. Washington School, Dover, on April 26, and was attended by six hundred people.

Mrs. ROBERT E. LEWIS, President.

ILLINOIS

The increasing interest and loyalty felt by our local associations for the National organization is in a large measure shown by this year's Founders' Day collection, which totals \$331.46, the largest contribution Illinois has ever made to Founders' Day.

The Endowment Fund which we had hoped to complete by our twenty-fifth annual meeting, has not reached the goal set, but it has been growing surely, if very slowly. It has been one means of emphasizing our family relationship, and has even now given us a fund which will always contribute to a sense of security in the work. The sum of \$9,500 has been reached to May 1.

Among the important activities of many associations is that of the establishment of the Student Aid or Scholarship Fund. Sometimes it takes the form of clothes and food given needy families of school children, and again it takes the form of scholarship funds which enable promising children to remain in school. One association, Austin High, of Chicago, raises from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars each year for this work.

Programs are being improved. More are concerned with matters relative to a Parent-Teacher Association. Fewer travelogues and purely entertaining features are reported. The needs of the school, recreation, education, health, home training and community problems are being discussed. The state loan papers are used extensively.

Americanization programs are reported from many schools. Foreign mothers are being brought together in classes, where sewing, cooking and the English language are being taught, and a pleasant friendly relationship established among the neighbors of the community. In some schools the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is being subscribed for largely among these foreign mothers.

More material has been sent to local associations this year than in the past. Our printing bill exceeds that of any previous year, and a large amount of National literature has also been distributed.

In October several of our members attended as delegates the Recreation Congress held in Springfield under the auspices of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. This was of special interest to us of Illinois, because of the new law passed by the legislature enabling cities under 150,000 population to provide community recreation out of municipal funds. Many cities are voting this spring as to whether they will take advantage of the law, and a letter has been sent to Parent-Teacher Associations in such cities, signed by the state president, urging the necessity for favorable action.

In October we had the pleasure of entertaining our National President, Mrs. A. H. Reeve, at a state luncheon given in Chicago. Seven members of our Advisory Board responded to the invitation to be present and to take part in the program, making of the affair not only a gala occasion, but a "feast of reason."

In February the National Association of Deans of Women and the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations held a joint session during the meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A., in Chicago. This meeting was held by invitation of the Deans, and was well attended by the Parent-Teacher Associations of Chicago and vicinity.

Reviewing the situation in Illinois, briefly stated it is this: Our membership is now known, and more nearly worthy of our state; our gain in associations is steady, our financial condition better than ever in our history. We are becoming better organized each year. More real leaders are being developed in our ranks, our district work is growing rapidly. The local association is coming into a keener realization that the state and national councils are not separate organizations, but that we are each a member, a part of the great organization, and therefore a greater unity of purpose is evident and greater achievement possible. Mrs. T. M. KILBRIDE, President.

KANSAS

Another year of Parent-Teacher activities is drawing to a close, and we of the Kansas Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, feel a not unjust pride in the results which have been attained.

Throughout the year there has been a wonderful enthusiasm and response from every section of our state, and it seemed to us who have had the good of the organization at heart that we have had very little difficulty in pushing the work.

Last year three new departments were added—the Parent-Teacher Association in Churches, the Rural Parent-Teacher Association, and the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, making sixteen (16) departments in all.

The Juvenile Court Department under its chairman conducted an interesting study of Juvenile Court methods, and an effort is being made at the present time to establish a Court of Domestic Relations.

Under our efficient head of the Kindergarten Department, kindergartens have been started in

many schools in Kansas, and the present state law is due to her untiring efforts.

We have enjoyed much publicity through the daily and Sunday papers of the state, and through our own state bulletin, *The Kansas Parent-Teacher*, which was edited by the Press and Publicity Chairman.

More Rally Days in celebration of Child Welfare Day were held, and our offering was more than four times the former amount this year, due to the splendid work of our state chairman of that department.

Especial mention of the effective work done by the Chairman of Legislation must be made. During the year just closed a flood of letters descended on our two Senators and the eight Representatives from Kansas, asking their support of the measures contained in the "Six P's" endorsed by the National, and they have almost unanimously assured us that they are in favor of those measures. They have also realized that the Parent-Teacher Association is a body to be reckoned with in big undertakings.

The Department of Better Films has worked with the National Department, and has been very diligent in sending out the lists of endorsed films received from the National Chairman, in seeing that they were published, and in getting the local moving picture men to place our endorsement on the advertised film. She has also devised a seal with an oak leaf in the center, and the words, "Endorsed by the National Parent-Teacher Association," in a circle around it, which is placed in a corner of the advertisement. A feeling of co-operation has been created between the Parent-Teacher Association and the moving picture owners, assuring them of our good will rather than our enmity.

Our Department of Church Parent-Teacher Association is just getting started, and is beginning with two federated Church Associations and a host of inquiries for the work. This year our representative was given a place on both programs. The Church Parent-Teacher Association was featured in both conventions as a new line of work, and much interest shown and many questions asked as to its formation. We feel confident that this will be a big feature in our work next year.

In the fall round-tables were held in connection with the State Teachers' Association, which met in four sections of our state, and much interest was aroused among the teachers and patrons attending. In February a State Round-Table was held in our Capital City, Topeka, at the same time and at the invitation of the Council of Administration of the State Teachers' Association.

Our State Superintendent of Public Instruction has expressed himself as favorable to placing the statement in the school laws of Kansas, that a rural school becomes a standard school when it has a properly organized and federated Parent-Teacher Association belonging to it, and will present the matter to the State Board of Education at its meeting in July. Splendid co-operation has been given us by most of the 105 county superintendents of Kansas, and our literature is kept on file in their offices. School Boards are requesting the formation of Parent-Teacher Associations in their school districts, thus showing that they have an appreciation of our valuable

work. A Speakers' Bureau was organized during the past year to help in the programs, and this consists of prominent educators and welfare workers who will give their services free, but stipulate that their traveling expenses be paid.

Among the things to be stressed for work next year are more co-operation between parents and teachers, larger memberships, better attendance on the part of parents, opportunity rooms, fresh-air rooms, more religious instruction schools, better enforcement of laws, physical education in the schools, cleaner recreations and the moral and spiritual responsibility of the home.

One of the big things which Kansas has put across the past year is the Week Day Schools of Religious Instruction, and the Parent-Teacher Associations have taken an important part in their promotion. In Salina 95 per cent of all the children in the public schools attend the Week Day Schools of Religious Instruction. In Wichita and in Kansas City, Kansas, there are more than 5,000 children attending.

During the last few weeks a plan has been under way for the organization of a Colored State Branch, and on April 25, 1924, a gathering of representative colored people met in Topeka and with the help of the white branch perfected their organization and adopted a constitution. By means of an Advisory Board, composed of a committee from the white branch, it is hoped to instill the ideals of the Parent-Teacher Association in these people, and to encourage them to develop the best instincts for education and morality.

The growth of the organization has been splendid, and the response very gratifying, but there is still room for improvement. Our slogan, "A Parent-Teacher Association in every school in the state," is still in force, and it will be the effort of the present personnel of the state organization to see that this slogan is carried out.

Mrs. J. B. RIDDLE, President.

KENTUCKY

It is with genuine satisfaction that we review the accomplishments of the Kentucky Branch. Not by leaps and bounds, yet slowly and surely we are forging ahead to the point where in every community Parent-Teacher Association is a recognized factor, not interfering but aiding and abetting in all that tends to Child Welfare.

Especially in the rural schools is the co-operation of home and school through parent and teacher manifest. Evidence of this is the increase in the number of County Councils being formed, and most encouraging are the reports coming from the rural districts throughout the state.

Great praise is due the energetic associations in the mountain counties in the eastern part of our state where, working against odds, able leaders have succeeded in materially improving school conditions.

The recognition from county and city school superintendents, principals, and teachers, even in the humblest schools in Kentucky, is a source of pride and gratitude.

State Superintendent McHenry Rhoads read into his bill, passed by the last legislature, that the Superintendent of Public Instruction may co-operate with the Parent-Teacher Association financially and otherwise, and may provide for same in the State Department of Education, thus giv-

ing our association recognition as an integral part of the Department of Education, and making legal whatever assistance we may receive. While we cherish the hope of state aid, yet we must not lose our identity as an association.

The past year our state work has been promoted without financial aid other than the contributions made on Founder's Day, February 17.

It has been our desire to interest public-spirited citizens to contribute to our Endowment Fund, proceeds from which could be used for organization purposes.

Just as we could not build a house beginning with the roof, so must we build from the bottom up in education. Therefore, we stress the importance of Pre-School Circles in every organization, to reach out and interest the young mothers who have children under six years of age to join in a program of training for parenthood, selecting the most active worker for the chairmanship of this very important branch of Parent-Teacher activity.

Quoting from the circular letter of our State Director of Music, Miss Caroline B. Bourgard, "All Kentuckians, enlisted on the side of uplift, advancement and achievement, should feel stirred with patriotic pride since we have reached the stage where, by organized endeavor, musical growth in Kentucky has gained such momentum that it gives Kentucky fifth place among the states that realize that state direction is as important as the state supervision of other branches of education. Plato says, 'Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, charm to sadness, gayety and life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful.'" Therefore, we have been untiring in our efforts to introduce music into our public schools.

If failure at all has attended our year's work, we feel it is due to lack of publicity. Assured that each and every organization and every individual member of such is exerting best efforts, yet have we "hidden our light under a bushel." We know what we are doing, but no one else knows unless we keep our activities prominently before the public.

We have asked that each association continue to give concerted effort to the uplifting of ideals for the welfare of the child, to the education of parents for better parenthood, to the improvement of schools, to the equalization of educational advantages, and to such legislation as will protect children and make good and useful citizens of them. In the words of our late lamented President, Warren G. Harding, "Parent-Teacher Associations, by united effort, can bring children up in peace, harmony, knowledge and spirituality." "The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow, and as we mold them now, so will they be then."

MRS. HANS MUELLER, President.

MARYLAND

The fact that Maryland has more than doubled her state and national membership during the past year proves that those already in the work are rapidly adding to their ranks. The slogan, "Every member win a member, every club win a club," has been a great inspiration, and the result emphasizes the value of such an endeavor.

Our banner club in elementary schools numbers 400, and our largest in high school won the high school banner with 512 members.

State and city superintendents are realizing the value of co-operation through groups such as Mothers' Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations, and are giving their support by helping and organizing County Federations, and during the coming year, with such co-operation, it does not seem too much to hope for "a Mothers' Club or a Parent-Teacher Association in every school."

Baltimore County has won the 1924 banner for a Parent-Teacher Association in every school, and in 1925 a banner will be awarded the county with every club a member of the state and national.

The Baltimore President's Council seems to be a unique feature. Only presidents or their representatives are in attendance, and much constructive work is accomplished. This meeting is held the fourth Monday night of each month, and proves a clearing house for much of the local work, each president having the opportunity to reject or indorse suggestions as to various forms of activities.

Splendid co-operation has been given Boys' Week, Girls' Week, Health Week, Education Week, Children's Book Week, Better Homes Exposition Week, and the many and various other week observances which have been proclaimed by our President, Governor and Mayor.

The entertainment of several hundred county champion athletes at their meet in Baltimore is becoming an annual feature, and we believe it a great constructive piece of work, as well as an opportunity for our future city and county leaders to know each other, aside from the real pleasure which we, as hostesses, derive from this privilege.

At this time when much is being said of a Federal Board of Motion Picture Censors, we are glad to report that the Maryland State Chairman of Censorship is co-operating as a member of our State Board of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and voted with us to protest Sunday movies, and, further, upon other occasions, has approved our protest against unclean films.

The Maryland Branch has supplemented appeals for increased appropriations, not only for elementary and high school accommodations, but for state normal schools and a city Teacher's Training School, believing we must provide both types of teacher-training in order to meet city and rural needs.

The state headquarters fund is increasing and the creation of a convention fund is receiving the attention of many who believe that an available fund for such purposes is invaluable. The sale of pencils, rummage sales, bakes and cash donations from clubs and individuals are making these funds possible.

During the summer the Maryland Branch will co-operate with the State Department of Education in the issuing of a bulletin, "Worth-While Patrons' Meetings," and a five-days' course in training for leadership along lines suggested by the National Congress. This course will be given at the State Normal School, Towson, and will be open to interested patrons of the entire state. A nominal fee will be charged and a descriptive folder will shortly be issued.

MRS. HARRY E. PARKHURST, President.

MASSACHUSETTS

In order to be better acquainted with the Massachusetts work, the incoming president began at once to make a survey of the field, largely by visiting; a strenuous task, to be sure, but there has been joy and inspiration in the doing and much enlightenment.

STIMULATING IDEALS

As to our associations, although many of them are doing *fine* work, it has seemed very necessary to keep before them the splendid ideals for which we stand; to *stimulate* their own ideals of taking work seriously, with ever the thought in mind, "This one thing I do," and to formulate their plans and programs that they may better fulfill the great aim and high purpose of our ideal.

MORE ACTIVE WORKING ORGANIZATION

To this end, also, the importance of the choice and of efficiency of committees has been stressed, and the forward looking to the development of leaders from within the ranks.

That these things may come to pass, there has been brought specially to the attention of every association just before its annual meeting the fact that "NOW" is "the great determining time" of the association.

This has been followed by suggestions as to HOW this may be accomplished, and by the question, "Is this *your* association?"

TRAINING FOR PARENTHOOD

Massachusetts has not been unmindful of the great common aim of all our states for this year—"Training for Parenthood." In emphasizing constantly, in season and out, the individual and group study of the pre-school child, the babe and the "runabout," it has been ever in mind that "discovering" the child is the finest kind of training that parents can have—a liberal education in itself.

CO-OPERATING AGENCIES

Our unceasing gratitude goes out to all the co-operating agencies which have made it so largely possible for us to get our ideals before the people, by backing them up with definite programs and plans of action; and by definite help to carry them into effect; and that through their speakers they have given us the inspiring and convincing message of experts. All this has been ably supplemented by the abundance of literature which we have been able to send to each of our associations from the National Departments, and for it all we are deeply grateful, especially for the leaflets and charts from the Physical Education Chairman, which fill a long-felt need.

It would be difficult to determine which agency has helped most in the six months we have worked together, but the more recently developed department of *Mental Hygiene* is so closely related in its working to the habits of the body as well as habits of the mind, with the resulting development of habits of character and personality, discovering the *soul* of the child, that we feel we should yield to it the high palm of praise and thanksgiving for its intensely practical aid.

AMERICAN HOME SERIES

So very much help has been found in the American Home Series of one-chapter books that it has been commended earnestly to each association, and individual and small group discus-

sion and study urged, feeling that one such interesting and worth-while book on child habit and nature read thoughtfully through the year will be an invaluable asset to the parents.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Plans are well under way for an intensive day at each of the three Summer Schools.

COURSE IN PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES AND WORK AT WHEELLOCK SCHOOL OF KINDERGARTEN

It is gratifying to know that Miss Lucy Wheelock intends to incorporate a half-year course in Parent-Teacher work in the third year of the Kindergarten Training Course at the Wheelock School, 100 Riverway, Boston, and has invited the Massachusetts president to assist in the course. A trained parliamentarian will take charge of parliamentary procedure.

This year, as in the past, Professor Cummings has been supplied with literature from the state office for use in his course of problems of education. He discusses Parent-Teacher work in all his classes both at Harvard and at Radcliffe.

SUMMARY IN BRIEF

Parent-Teacher work in Massachusetts is growing in depth of purpose and in breadth of interest, and is rousing more and more able people to come out as leaders; it is going on at a safe and sane speed; is zealous but practical in its efforts to unite parents and teachers in the interests of the children, is aided by a small but fine group of working councilors under an efficient "chief;" and is regarded as a force to be reckoned with in the educational world, not a castle in air, but a "house built upon rock."

Discouragements? Yes; many of them. Who has not? But with unbounded faith in our National leaders and *inspired* by our honored and beloved Mrs. Higgins, when heart might otherwise fail, we have been able to make of them not stumbling blocks, but stepping stones! To our leaders and to all who have sustained us—our grateful thanks!

MRS. EDWARD V. FRENCH, President.

MICHIGAN

In our campaign of "educating the educator" to the value of the Parent-Teacher Association for every school in Michigan, a great step forward was made when our State Superintendent of Public Instruction included a half day Parent-Teacher Association conference in the two-day meeting of all County School Commissioners and County Normal teachers—from which has developed a real awakening spirit of co-operation with our organization. Of eighty-three counties in our state in one year of working under the District and County plan, we have chairmen in almost half the counties and District Vice-Presidents in all seven districts, six of them actively working for our cause.

Our Parent-Teacher-Association conferences will again be part of the Summer School sessions in two of our Normals, and one of our most able County School Commissioners hopes to put a course of training in Parent-Teacher Association work into her County Normal Training School, using the near-by Parent-Teacher Association meetings as demonstration classes each month. This plan is being formulated by our valued State

Recording Secretary and this School Commissioner, and when it proves itself, will, we are sure, become a part of all County Normal School courses.

Each of our six District State Teacher meetings last fall included a most successful and well-attended Parent-Teacher Association section with our National Chairman, Miss Ellen C. Lombard, Director of Home Education of the United States Bureau of Education, presenting there the opportunities offered by her department for adult education and training for parenthood, and resulting in a real interest in home reading by parents and children all over our state.

Our *Bulletin* carries in each issue a "National Congress Notes" column and through this channel we are developing the true spirit of co-operation with a national vision.

The *Bulletin* now numbers 42,000 copies per month and goes to every member of every Parent-Teacher Association, in bundles to the local president for distribution at the meeting. It has contributed more than any other one thing to our awakened interest in national and state affiliation, and our pride in our parent organization.

In Michigan we have larger numbers of fathers realizing they, too, are parents. Our membership rolls show father-presidents of locals and councils everywhere, four father district vice-presidents, two of these superintendents of schools. Two of our cities have every local Parent-Teacher Association and their Councils presided over by the father parents, while in our state capital, Lansing, our father Council President is organizing the Junior High Schools and High School Associations entirely through the father parents, permitting, of course, the mothers and teachers to join and even to hold minor offices!

The Michigan Branch voted in 1923 annual convention to ask each member association to send one dollar per year to the State Treasurer for national and state endowment fund, to which the response has been indeed gratifying, because of the unusualness of the request. Another year will see this thrift measure (as our Endowment Chairman has termed it) well established.

Michigan created a Department of Music this year and a Chairman has been appointed to co-operate with all organizations who are trying to make America musical by making, "Good Music Popular and Popular Music Good."

Through the efforts of our own state chairman of Americanization, Miss Carrie Dicken, of Ann Arbor, (who, for her work along this line, received one of the first two peace-time citations of the American Legion), and through the splendid example set us by the Grand Rapids Council of Parent-Teacher Associations in this work we are, as never before, helping develop real citizens.

While our efforts along the line of banishing the undesirable magazines from our state have not been state-wide, they have been persistent and effective through the presentation of the facts before Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other men's organizations when opportunity offered.

May Michigan add its urge to that of so many other states, that we make it our real job in all states next year to rid our news-stands and magazine racks of all publications which put forth salaciousness in vicious though attractive form, and that, if possible, some constructive plan be

given the states through which the menace of the movies may be at least partially removed or at least lessened.

Detroit associations have had an unusual opportunity afforded them in the organization of a Parent-Teacher Association class in training for motherhood held every second week at the Merrill-Palmer School to which each Association sends one of its members, that member bringing back to the Association she has represented the splendid education received in this class. This wonderful plan was developed and made possible by our State Pre-School Chairman, Miss Elizabeth Cleveland, of Detroit, and Dr. Helen T. Wooley, Director of the Merrill-Palmer School of Training for Motherhood.

While Parent-Teacher Associations in the cities, towns and villages are to be commended for the fine contributions they are making toward a better school and community, it is in the rural districts that these associations are living their real purpose, that of service, in co-operating with state and county health services, in educating their members in their local and state laws in providing school and playground equipment, and our rural Parent-Teacher Associations are especially active in establishing libraries in their schools, often their only available method being to contribute from each home their copy of a much-loved book and where it is a book for children, the former owner has written therein the reason it was their favorite book, and, therefore, should be read.

Battle Creek Parent-Teacher Associations are working upon the development of a "Community Conscience" in all parents and teachers of the city and to this end sent out a questionnaire asking such questions as follows, though differently worded:

Do you attend a church?

Do your children attend a Sunday School?

Through what community group are you serving your city?

Has your child a responsibility to the home?

And others as pertinent.

These replies will be tabulated and the results presented at the President's Round Table during our state convention.

MRS. EDGAR W. KIEFER, President.

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Branch is eighteen months old. After returning from the National Convention of 1923, and hearing about the great work that was being carried on in the other states, it seemed a puzzle where to begin. The question came up, should our state association find leaders first and then do organizing, or try to increase the membership and then select leaders? At that time our membership was 3,418. We decided to work to increase our membership. We feel that we were quite successful as we increased the membership to 12,551 by April 1, 1924, a gain of 267 per cent.

We have not had an active director of organization. In our newness, it has been impossible to find one. A year ago we sent to every city and county superintendent in the state, to the county nurses and the county agents, a little pamphlet with information about the state association and directions how to organize. This, with the excellent literature from the National, has been our greatest help.

During May and June, the delegates to the Na-

tional Convention gave their reports to many associations. One of our objects has been to get the local associations to become better acquainted with the work of the National Congress and the inspiration and help it is prepared to give.

In July, three lectures on Parent-Teacher work were given at the University Summer School. Although the heat at the time was excessive, a goodly number of students came to the lectures and much interest was aroused. Incidentally, we learned that a city superintendent, who was working for his Master's Degree, had chosen the subject, "Parent-Teacher Associations," for his thesis.

During the first week in September, the state association had a booth at the State Fair. There were visitors at the booth from eleven states and Canada. Thousands of little folders were given out and hundreds of people left their names for literature.

In the early part of October, the state association was invited to take an active part on the program of five of the division meetings of the Minnesota Educational Association.

The First Annual State Convention was held October 30, 31, and November 1, at St. Paul. We had the honor of having Mrs. Reeve with us and her advice and encouraging words were a great help to us. Every session was well attended. There were two hundred and sixty-two accredited delegates and a total attendance of over seven hundred. The programs were much appreciated, but we learned two things: That we must allow more time for business and have fewer speakers so as to have more time for discussion. We also learned that the time for sociability was not wasted.

A good Speakers' Bureau has been formed, so that calls for assistance on programs may be filled satisfactorily.

The educators of the state and the State Department of Education have given us their hearty co-operation. The first meeting of the advisory board of the state association was held in Commissioner J. M. McConnell's reception room. The President of the State University, Dr. Lotus D. Coffman, and those in charge of the University Summer School, have extended to us every courtesy in helping to bring our work before the Summer School students. The presidents of six teachers' colleges have assisted us in getting members of their faculties on the Speakers' Bureau. The Minnesota Educational Association has assisted us whenever we have approached them and given us space in their organ, *The Minnesota Teacher*. The Minnesota Public Health Association has helped on the Speakers' Bureau, and in other ways.

As to the work of the individual associations, briefly stated, they have taken up studies of school systems, health work along the line of better nutrition, more sleep, less excitement, relief work for children who could not attend school for lack of clothes or shoes, milk stations, lectures on sex to mothers, better reading, children's evening hours, child psychology, cleaner movies, Americanization among foreign-born mothers, home economics, wiser social life for children and many other worthy matters.

For the coming year, we are planning first of all to get out a bulletin. This is our greatest need. Then we hope to have more intensive work by districts. There will be district round-

table conferences, probably in conjunction with the division meetings of the Minnesota Educational Association.

There will be a state Parent-Teacher booth at the State Fair again, with four to six workers in it each day. At the Fair booth we hope to interest many from the rural districts. Last year the most interested visitors at the booth were the county nurses.

There will be an attempt made to secure greater uniformity in programs, with the following objects in view:

Better understanding of the new methods in school education.

Study of the community social life of children.

Increase of percentage of parents belonging in each district.

Thrift, with a definite purpose to teach children to spend their money for worth-while objects.

Interest in more book reading as opposed to magazine reading, and with a definite plan to secure only what is worth-while reading.

Study of movie situation.

Health habits of children.

The greatest attainment of the past year was securing the National Convention. We feel that the influence of the meeting of this group in our midst will have wonderful results for the advancement of our work.

It is our sincerest wish so to work in the future that all who have assisted us in the beginning shall feel that they have helped to start a good work. May the seed you have helped to sow bear abundant fruit for the future citizens of our beloved state. Mrs. E. G. QUAMME, President.

MISSISSIPPI

With the closing of the year, many things are outstanding in accomplishments, but the greatest of all is that a better understanding of the ideals and purposes of the Congress work is had by the officers and leaders.

The fifteenth annual convention was an overwhelming success.

While the membership does not show a marked increase over the year 1922-1923, many phases of work have been so well established that results will be obtained for the year of 1924-1925. The magazine subscription list is now about 300. There has been established annual Parent-Teacher Association Day, when the state work is brought before the local association, and a free-will offering made for the State Extension. There has also been provision made for a full-time paid secretary to the president. Provision has been made for the payment of the expenses of the state officers and chairmen of departments to the annual convention, believing it absolutely necessary for all these to be in attendance for the inspiration and information to be gained there.

The state has been so restricted that one chairman has not more than six or seven counties, in order that the rural sections of the state may be reached.

It is our purpose for the coming season to do some special work among the Negroes, and to reach the most remote sections of the country, giving every boy and girl an equal chance in life.

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Mrs. LEWIS H. YARBROUGH, President.

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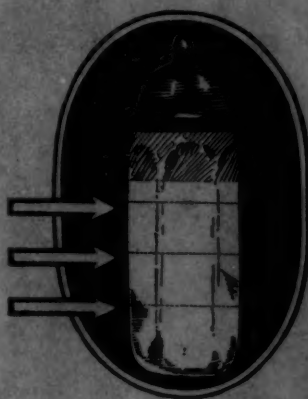
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National Congress of Parents and Teachers

INCORPORATED, 1897

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